

FLAMING NEWS

Winter, 2005

The board of FLAME thanks God for the news we are getting from our missionaries Herb and Martha. Most of you on this list are also blessed with the Chapters they send.

We see the many difficulties they face and thank God for their patience and prayerful attitudes. It isn't easy to plan and then have so many things go awry!

- The headquarters' house is not completed – at least has a long way to go to finish -when they arrive. After they arrive the plans in front of the workers seem to be ignored. It is also hard to sit back and let others do the work when Herb and Martha are so capable of assisting.
- The truck has more problems than it might be worth, though we can see that without it may be worse.
- The container with so many supplies and goods is delayed more than two months. When it arrives some items have been affected by the long delay.
- The weather is so different from the Pacific Northwest but that can't be changed. God is in charge completely and Martha and Herb work on an attitude of acceptance.
- Where and how do we exchange our money for theirs? The bank we can use has yet to be unveiled. What is the least expensive way to get money to our missionaries?
- Putting up security around our buildings and by the use of iron grills on windows is helpful, but will that be enough? There is also need for security around the truck. It is a real temptation for hoodlums to steel or damage parts.
- The travel is difficult, timing is a problem, locusts and red ants are troublesome pests and on and on!

Does that sound like all gloom and doom? Listen to more:

- They were given a wonderful place to stay with Pastor Chenda's family. They were befriended by the teachers, Elvina and Ruthie. They are greeted by the townsfolk, which gives them great openings for witness.
- Martha and Herb remain healthy – at least it is no worse than if they were here, I believe. Maybe better!
- They see progress in most every situation though it may not be according to the standards and the timing westerners are used to.
- They have entered into the community: Herb has preached, Martha is teaching English, both helped with a wedding, and more.

At our January board meeting Tom gave a wonderful perspective to all of this. Tom, because he has spent a great deal of time in Africa, understands the situation so very well. He shared much of his testimony about time in Ghana as part of our devotions. He is sure that Martha and Herb will understand the message of I Peter 4: 12 & 13. *“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.”* It made us look at things differently too. God does that!

The eleven “bullets” in this letter alert you to at least eleven items for prayer!

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