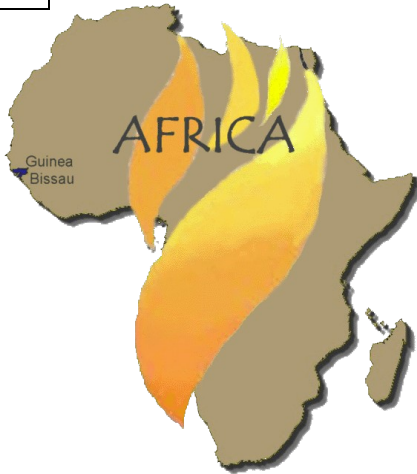


FLAMING NEWS

Winter, 2007

Freedom Life African Ministries
Emmanuel



FLAMING NEWS:

**Greetings from the Board of FLAME,
for the year 2007 and in the name of
our Savior Jesus Christ.**

What fun it would be to have a picture of Martha and Herb traveling in Guinea Bissau in their little jeep, which they were finally able to get out of port. It took much time, some money (more than we had anticipated but not as much as it might have been), and help from several people. "Thank you, God, for getting it to Canchungo before Herb and Martha leave."

Waiting for the arrival of the container and having the contents brought to Canchungo was one of the events that took much patience on the part of our missionaries.

Problems with the usual environmental elements in Guinea Bissau also can be frustrating - the bugs - the ups and downs of temperature. Sure they expected the heat, but when Martha hurriedly made some comfortable shorts for Herb, the cooler temperatures came!

They are accomplishing a lot - at least we see this in their regular reports to the board. Yet they sense they don't accomplish many activities that need doing before the beginning of the school. Let me relate why.

"Dr. Martha" is busy with the neighborhood sores. Every young boy, who scrapes his knee either comes with his mother or by himself or with a friend with a like problem to ask for a bandage. No, it is not as simple as that. Many

come with infections that need cleaning, ointment, bandages and prayer. This is like a whole ministry in itself. I wonder if some nurse should volunteer to go to Guinea Bissau for a year. (Martha has mentioned this too.)

Herb is busy each evening writing the journals. But many times he is visited by some of the cutest children in Canchungo. At first he may desire to hide but they play games - his and theirs. They leave refreshed, I'm sure, and Herb still gets his work done on the journals.

One young man especially comes often for food. He is usually willing to work for it because his family has little or nothing. There are times he is fussy about what he hungers for - typical youngster! Others of the neighbors come too and rarely are they given something without the opportunity to work for the food. Other times it is a matter of necessity that food or medicines are given to those in need.

Babies need special recognition too when they are named for you. Already Herb might be in a quandary because two babies are Herb. Martha worries about who will come running when Herb is called!

I could go on with those stories, which may or may not have direct connection with Jesus Industrial School. I do believe they have a great deal of connection with bringing the love of Christ to a hungry world!

There have been unwanted delays in opening the school. We hoped to be rolling early January and then late January but. . . . Though the teachers are available and many students stand in line to enter, several students don't have funds to pay tuition. The sewing machines they hoped for were not available, etc. There needs to be a security wall in place but the city planning committee wants the perimeter moved so they can build a road. The meetings with the powers that be have not been successful at this writing. **Pray this situation will come to an amiable conclusion!** Herb has been working on policies, supervising workers to complete the bathrooms and in other ways. Martha has been sewing curtains from a heavy material to cover windows so passers by cannot be tempted to take the supplies and equipment they can see. (If you want to know size and number of curtains look on the web site.) Both have been making numerous trips to Bissau to renew their alien status, look into obtaining drivers' license, get their e-mail correspondence, and on and on.

This time in GB they hear of and visit an industrial school (CIFAP) in the capitol. The Catholic Church began CIFAP in 1995. Herb and Martha along with Joel Mendes were graciously received and obtained good advice and information. It has been difficult to determine a pay scale for our instructors. From visiting here and with the teachers in the elementary Christian school in Canchungo, our missionaries have gotten some insights.

Holidays can be very different in a culture far from home. The family gatherings are missed the most. Guinea Bissau, of course, is not acquainted with the great American Thanksgiving. Christmas is celebrated by their Christian friends and in the church, but the decorations and general celebration is missing and it seems to be work goes on as usual. Herb and Martha do enjoy time with the Christian teachers from Brazil. It has become tradition to spend Christmas Eve with Elvina and Ruthie. The TV did bring a bit of America to them and Martha's brownies made a big hit. On Christmas Day the Reynolds called family members until the phone cards ran out. The calls were great, but it isn't like being with family.

People aren't always easy to work with; in fact sometimes we are downright disappointing! It has come to light that one who has worked several years with our missionaries has betrayed their trust. He has resigned and a temporary replacement has been found – a young man who has been learning many aspects of the ministry for months. Good reports have been voiced concerning Joel Mendes and **he needs our prayers and support. The person who resigned also needs our prayers** for his life has had many turns and twists. And we must acknowledge that he did use several of his talents in helping us in Guinea Bissau.

Some of the employees seem to test our missionaries' patience by coming to ask for advances in salary, with doubts that they have been paid enough, and so on. These all have to be treated with Christian charity and with wisdom. According to the reports received they have done well! Now another course to teach comes to mind. These folks may profit with a course in money management. However, their culture is a problem too, for it seems that even if they have a job – as teacher, doctor, soldier, – they may not get paid!

Let's rejoice for a paragraph or two!

We are called by God to be channels of His love, messengers of His Word and instruments of the Holy Spirit to bring the people of Africa into the fellowship of Christ and His Church.

In the three months Herb and Martha have been away, their health has not given them much trouble. Yes, Martha did have a cold, which kept her down more than she would like. Herb suffered a minor one-day malady and also fought off a cold. **Pray that their health may remain strong and bring them back safely in March.**

Someone was able to get cement at a good price and the bricks have been made for the security wall. A sewing instructor has been found and she sounds like an answer to prayer. Though Francesca Co Gomes lives in the capitol, she is willing to come to teach in Canchungo during the week. She is a Christian and has taught sewing one on one.

Finances seem to be at a rather low ebb. Hundreds of dollars are needed each month to pay employees and take care of the supplies for a school. The early part of the year is not always very fruitful. May you dig deep to give! Pray that the good news of Jesus Industrial School may reach out to others who want to be involved!

- **Pray that students may come to JIS! And that they may be able to pay tuition or . . . perhaps YOU would like to provide tuition for a student. (\$60). Pray that classes in sewing and mechanics and others may begin soon!**
- **Pray that the employees may reflect Christ in their work – as janitors, teachers, guards, and administrators.**
- **Pray for our missionaries now and for God to touch others to take their place or work along side.**
- **As you read through this again, you will see many ways in which you can pray. But most of all, we pray as one that God may be glorified and His Kingdom may come!**

We thank you for your prayers and financial gifts. You may send gifts at any time to

FLAME

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Envelope is enclosed.

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