



a call to business



## Elmer and Joann Reifel Christians In Action

Sierra Leone, West Africa

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Dear Friends and Family,

It is so surprising what happens when it happens and how it happens...

We were not surprised by Mom Reifel's passing in June, but were somewhat surprised that we were back in the US again about the same time as last year, plus an extra month. Our trip back was only made secure within a month of her passing and we used the time there to try to increase our financial support, visit with family in the US and Canada and decide what to do with our house in Indiana.

We were able to spend time with Kara-Lee and help her get moved into a better apartment, spent a lot of time with Kevan at our house but unfortunately we were not able to visit Alfred and Big and their adorable son Bankie "Jr.". We spent a week in Canada with Joann's family, helping with a house project and were able to visit with a few special friends. Our house situation unfortunately is still not resolved and we are praying for God to clarify everything. A few good friends and Bethany Missionary Church friends were a big help to us in moving our belongings into various storage sites. We were literally packing and sorting things out until the "last minute" before leaving for Chicago.



Leaving the chaos and uncertainty made it a relief to return to our quiet spot in Rogberay. For a while! **Until** we got the deadline for the Teachers Housing (October 2011). **Until** the teachers came *en masse* after they had seen us working on the building to tell Elmer that he "had not shown any concern for their strained quarters." **Until** the three workmen went on strike without notice. **Until**...and so on. We had a VERY stressful September! We really appreciated the strength of God's people going to Him in prayer on our behalf!!

**We thank God for very supportive bosses and the knowledge that GOD IS IN CONTROL. The result is that the issues were resolved, we are still here and we are not done building that building yet!**

We did have a few negative encounters in October as well...**three men tried to break into our house by shooting at Elmer and the watchman.** After catching a glimpse of the gunman, Joann locked the door as Elmer and Pa Sorie ran behind the house where it was dark. Long story short...one of the three men was apprehended by some of the local "posse" that formed after we reported the attack. He was imprisoned for a while but released after a couple weeks on lesser charges. The other two (including the one with the gun) were tracked for a while but not found. All three were not known locally. That same week Joann was pick-pocketed and Elmer narrowly missed being struck by a motorcycle. Whew! Satan is working hard.

## **BUT the GOOD NEWS IS...**

We are ministering to a young woman, Teri, who came to Sierra Leone with good intentions and an open heart to follow God's will but got in over her head. She is very talented with bookkeeping and has been assisting Joann with outstanding bookkeeping issues and pitching in with cooking and painting and whatever needs doing while we counsel her through a serious situation.



**The Teachers Housing** will be done SOON, Lord willing and the sun keeps shining. Electrical wires are being run and the rooms are in various stages of completion, including paint. The furniture is just waiting to take up final position!

Also, we started a simple question/answer “Bible” class to help some younger Muslims understand the differences between Islam and Christianity. This is still a tentative measure but we are glad to provide an opening for the truth to make its way into the minds of some of our workmen and hopefully into their hearts. A former Muslim, is assisting in this group study.

### Prayer Concerns:

- For our continued safety during the upcoming holiday season and upcoming elections (in 2012).
- Consistent financial support.
- Clearing of the container that has been in port since May. Paperwork complications since August have been stalling our family's efforts repeatedly. We hope to clear it this week because it will be up for auction and it contains home school materials and many ministry related items.
- For resolution in Teri's situation and that we will continue to be an encouragement to her. She is our “daughter” as well as our volunteer.



We want to express our appreciation now to our financial and prayer supporters in particular and our family members who love us enough to “let us go” to wherever God wants to send us. All this support, in its various forms, means so much to us and we want you to know TODAY how much we love you right back! We miss you all during this holiday period and know God will be there for you just as He is HERE for us.

In His Service,

*Elmer and Joann Reifel*