



Peace In The Storm

I am writing this article from a room in Orlando, Florida with hurricane Frances howling outside. Let me tell you that it is quite the experience having our family all hunkered down in a room. There was some damage where we stayed, part of the roof blown off and the north face of the buildings siding missing, but other than that we just had some very stir crazy kids.

We felt quite the peace knowing we had made all the preparations such as filling the bathtub to have water after. More importantly our peace came from knowing the one who controlled the wind and the waves.

This Hurricane experience was a perfect illustration the Lord used to speak to me. Our family has faced many hurdles in the path of our missionary service. I can look in the past and see which of the storms of life we were prepared for and the ones we were not.

A Hurricane does not just sneak up on you. There are days of warning allowing for preparation. Driving around after the storm here in Florida we could easily see who was prepared and who was not.

We now find ourselves in this time of warning and preparation. We have been delayed but the reason for this delay is for a time of preparation for the inevitable storm we will face in the future.

We would rather take the time to be prepared enough to weather the storm and even maybe be able to help others who were caught unprepared. — Ray

*September /October
2004*



Home Is In The Heart

The saying goes "Home is where the heart is". Over the past year home has been some what of a foreign word to our family. There have been days where I have pouted to God about this and then been reminded by the holy spirit that the Lord's timing is not our own and he has a purpose in all we have experienced.

This was my state of mind until talking to a little boy who was wise beyond his years. This little boys family were also missionaries to Africa and were back "home" on furlough.

While talking with this little boy I asked where home was for his family? His answer, "Home is where ever my family is"

You see, home isn't a place with four walls where you can put up pictures and make it your own. Although that is nice. Home is family and as long as our family is together, no matter how many places God would still have us go or as long as it takes. We are home. Matt. 8: 18-22 -Julie



SEE A WELL

Mali, From Hellers 12-02

March 2002 Don & Lyle Smith, brothers and aircraft mechanics, friends, and ministry supporters, came out to visit and encourage us, as well as to help out with airplane maintenance.

They braved a rather warm and dirty environment to experience the people, and the sights, sounds, and smells of Africa for the first time. They were able to travel out to a village where other Christians have been able to present the Good News to the children through skits, stories and songs. (The adults of the village are usually seen on the fringes of the crowd as they listen, too.)

Don & Lyle were able to see the well that had been dug by MAF national staff (along with the aid of the villagers). The MAF staff use the many days that it takes to dig a well to develop relationships with the villagers and to present God's plan of salvation in conversation and by showing the JESUS film.

MAF MINISTRY INFORMATION

If you would like to hear more stories about what God is doing through MAF around the world, there is a wealth of information that can be found at www.maf.org.

The story above is only a small example of the fulfilling of MAF's mission of using strategic technologies to overcome barriers to the gospel. Not all barriers are the same and so MAF is a lot more than just flying airplanes.

Who knows, you may feel a tugging to use a talent of yours to serve in missions, such as teaching, computers, or administrative skills. God can use what ever you give him.



WANTED



Sadly, our email list dwindles. The last email update we sent had 37 returned as "undeliverable" with bad addresses. Email is one of the best ways we can stay in touch. If you haven't heard from us via email in the last 2-3 weeks, you can assume we don't have your e-address. Please consider emailing us with your most current email address. Thanks!



Personal Note

I pray this letter finds you all doing well. We want to thank you all for all your prayers and letters of encouragement during this time of waiting. We love you all and appreciate your support and friendship.

We are now in Colorado enjoying the crisp dry air. Autumn has always been my favorite season. To feel the coolness in the air and the leaves beginning to get a tint of color is so exciting to me. I am so thankful the Lord has allowed us to enjoy this season once more before leaving for Africa.

We are staying at the World Prayer Center while we are here in Colorado. This building has praise and prayer happening 24 hours a day. The atmosphere is incredible here and very refreshing. We are so blessed to have the opportunity to stay in a place like this as we do training to prepare our family for a long and successful career over seas.

The children are all doing well. While Ray and I are in training the kids have had the opportunity to attend Kid Care at New Life Church. This program is very similar to Day Care. The kids are learning Bible stories and Christian songs. We are so thankful that they are in a Christian atmosphere and playing with other kids during the day.

Please continue to keep in touch. We love hearing from you and hearing all the exciting things God is doing in your lives. We look forward to hearing from you soon!!

*Ray + Julie Siebring,
Elias, Gabriella + Josiah*

Our Tentative Timeline...

Deputation in Canada	Aug , '04
Non-technical training in Colorado Springs	Sept. , '04
MTI language training in Colorado Springs, CO	Oct. , '04
MAF HQ in CA	Nov. , '04
<u>Depart for Lesotho</u>	<u>Unknown</u>



Newsletter News : We have completed the implementation of the electronic newsletter system. If you would like to receive your newsletter in this form please email us at rjs@siebrings.com and make sure any spam filters recognize Siebrings.com as a safe address. We also have an email address change. Our new email address is going to be rjs@siebrings.com



From Pilot Training to PILAT Training

We had the opportunity to share with you past newsletters about the flight training Ray had begun with MAF. This training is still incomplete but our family is taking several weeks in October to attend the PILAT (Program In Language Acquisition Techniques) in Colorado Springs. PILAT is a pre-departure program designed to help all our family develop the skills, methods, techniques and attitude necessary to learn another language. When it comes to learning a new language or living cross culturally zeal and good intentions are not enough. This specific type of training will make the difference.

A friend shared with me "If we can't produce the sounds of the local tongue correctly, then we can't be understood, or at best speak with a bad American accent." This can be a problem when you are in their country to serve and communicate the message of the gospel not to mention daily living.

Did you know that English is composed of 44 sounds? That the human voice can create thousands of different sounds and the ones we are not used to can mistakenly sound alike. A perfect example would be the Chinese language with it's intonations compared with the phonetics of English. So to put it lightly I guess this month we are going to get hooked on cultural phonics.



Praise & Prayer

Praise:

- Increased ministry support is coming in
- Families health & safety as we have traveled the country.

Prayer

- Patience & flexibility during this time of change for our family.
- Ease of learning new skills during language studies.

Monthly Ministry Support

Minimum Support Needed	5400.00
Committed	5400.00
Actual Received: Aug.	5158.00
Actual Received: Sept.	3976.00



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