

# IVORY COAST CHRISTIAN MISSION

Bob & Connie Sheffler

sponsors of:

**Christian Leadership Training Institute**

and

**Grassroots Leadership Development**

## SHEFFLER UPDATE - APRIL 2011

Hello friends and supporters,

### **Christian Leadership Training Institute**

**Stephen Ofori and Godfred Minta just returned from a trip to Nigeria** for seminars in Lagos and the Cross River State. Last year they were robbed at gun point and they were harassed at a multitude of police checks. **This year all went smoothly and they had only a few police checks.** The government threatened to close the roads and the borders for security reasons because of national elections. They were able to leave before the closures took place. **Stephen said, "I have seen that the Nigerian police respect a new vehicle. Thank God for giving us the new Isuzu."** God has answered our prayers for this trip.

**The seminars were on *Christian Vocational Guidance and Counseling (Theology of Work)*.** The lessons explain that the work of the "clergy" is not more important to God than the work of the common laborer. All work must be done for the glory of God and all skills can be used to serve God even in the secular world. One must find his/her God-given skills and use them to glorify God wherever God has called us to labor.

Key leaders were trained in the seminars. **Leaders promised that the lessons will be utilized in their ministry** to help Christians honor God through their skills and their vocational work.

## IVORY COAST

Finally as I write this, the reluctant incumbent president is being forced out of the country so that the newly elected president can take control. This conflict has gone on since last fall. Many have been killed, mostly supporters of the newly elected president. In one incident, **unarmed women who protested in the streets were killed by military forces under the leadership of the incumbent president.** Forces loyal to the new president recently took control of the country within three days and then surrounded Abidjan. At this time, French and UN forces are helping the new forces to remove the old president.

Roujee Morris, our supervisor for the TEE work in Abidjan, sent us this comment about two weeks ago. *"We are grateful to be alive and safe even though life is very uncertain and scary at times. The level of hatred, violence and intolerance is unbelievable. The situation is more complex than complex."* I read in our newspaper that residents of Abidjan are without water and are taking cover during these final days of the struggle. I am anxious to receive an update from Roujee to know if he and his wife are OK and if the worst of the political struggle is now past.

## NIGERIA

Sunday Ude reports that their possession of the land for the Bible College is still being threatened due to the lack of a wall around the property. A new church has been started at Agoi Ekpo. The training of the Bible college students is now restricted to intensive courses during school holidays because most of the students support themselves and their families as teachers in the secular schools. **The church leaders are facing many challenges as well as opportunities in the Lord's work.** Only God can make it happen. **Tribal conflicts, political rivalry and conflicts between Christians and Muslims are stirring up daily conflicts as the nation holds elections this month.** They request your prayers for the nation and for all Christian leaders. Only God can bring peace, give spiritual wisdom and enable church leaders to be courageous.

# LIBERIA

Six classes recently completed TEE courses. New courses will be offered soon. **They are preparing for Stephen Ofori to visit TEE classes in May** when he will give the same seminar on the theology of work that he gave in Nigeria. The nation is also facing elections in the near future.

## **PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS:**

1. Thank God for the safe and successful travels of Stephen and Godfred to Nigeria.
2. Thank God that the political conflict in Ivory Coast is almost over.
3. Continue to pray for Ivory Coast as the new president takes control.
4. Pray for a successful Easter Convention in Ghana as about 2,000 travel to the Central Region to attend workshops and preaching sessions.
5. Pray for courage and wisdom for the Christian leaders in Nigeria.
6. Pray for peaceful elections in both Nigeria and Liberia.
7. Pray for funds to pay off the loan on the new Nissan pickup and funds to build a wall around the Cross River Christian College.