

## Christmas 2008

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...full of grace and truth. John 1:14*

**A**t this time of year, we **celebrate the Word** that became flesh to live among us and bring us the fullness of grace and truth. It is such a privilege to live in a place where the Word is just now being fully fleshed out in all of its grace and truth for a people who have never known it before. It must be something like the first Christmas when the shepherds saw the fullness of God's grace and truth in the face of a tiny newborn child. Let us tell you about two exciting ways that the Word is becoming flesh and opening up a new world of grace and truth to many Africans for the first time.

The literacy ministry of the church has been opening up a new world of grace and truth to people for several years. This last year it has really taken off far beyond our imaginations, especially in the war-torn North. This area has grown from one group of a hand-full of learners to 15 centers with over 200 persons eager to learn to read the Word. In recent training seminars, more than 40 workers have been trained to teach others to read and write, and are now leading literacy groups in four different regions of the country at most of our church locations. What joy to see people's eyes light up with understanding as they **read God's Word** for themselves for the first time. The written word becomes flesh as they experience the full impact of grace and truth in their lives. (**Literacy ministry #42.40132**)

**T**he spoken word also impacts people's lives as it is heard. The new radio ministry of the Church of God in Cote d'Ivoire has the potential of exposing millions of people to the spoken word through the new French-speaking broadcast being sponsored by Christians Broadcasting Hope (CBH). This dream has been many years in the making and has involved the creation of a recording studio in Yamoussoukro, the training of Pastor Daniel as producer/speaker and Issa as the technician. In fact as we write this letter, **Obed, the chief technician of CBH-Swahili in Kenya**, is spending a week with us training Daniel and Issa in recording and editing techniques to enhance the program. Once the French broadcast is on the air on local FM stations and short-wave radio, it will put **flesh to the spoken word** to potentially millions of French-speaking Africans who desperately need to know its fullness of grace and truth. (**CBH #44.30100-French**)

**May the grace and truth of the Word fill your Christmas season with the Light of the World this year and always!**

**Larry, LeAnn, Laura & Lee**

### **PRAISES:**

- new literacy centers starting up.
- God's protection on LeAnn during her emergency appendectomy on her birthday.
- Lee will be home with us for Christmas from boarding school in Senegal.

### **PRAY FOR:**

- upcoming evangelistic teams to be sent into neighboring Burkina Faso to start a new work of the Church of God planned for February 2009.
- safety for our travel to Burkina Faso overland by car.
- Laura's travel and time with Larry's family for her first Christmas away from us.