

Merry Christmas 2009 from Cote d'Ivoire



“You have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.” Gen. 22.12

These words, referring to Abraham’s supreme show of love and faith in God, were spoken by the ONE who knew already that He would have to give His only Son as the supreme show of His love for us in faith that we would follow His example in giving our best back to Him out of our love and faith in Him. However, in this case, there would be no last minute reprieve, no substitutionary ram on Mt. Moriah to take the place of His Son. **Because this Son, Jesus-Christ, is the Lamb that God provided to take OUR place on the altar of sacrifice on that same mountain.** And that is the reason for Christmas – our commemoration of God’s greatest gift of all to us – His only Son, Jesus.

Thank-you, Lord, that You have not withheld your Son, your only Son, from us!”

Even though our children have been gone from home for several years for boarding school and college, we still struggle with giving up our children. Abraham’s faith and obedience seem more and more incredible and painful to us. And thus God’s ultimate sacrifice seems more amazing and poignant than ever before!! May the depth of God’s love for **YOU** in not withholding His only Son from **YOU** become an ever more amazing and poignant reality, transforming every aspect of your life in this New Year 2010!

Though it is painful to see our kids leave us, we are thankful that Lee will be home for Christmas from boarding school in Senegal. He arrives on December 15, his Mom’s birthday. That will be her best gift of the year!! We are glad that Laura will be with her grandmother in Florida during the holidays since she cannot be with us in Africa. We are missing her already!!

We are also thankful for you who have continued to support us so faithfully even in the most difficult times. God has provided through you so that we might be able to share the Good News of His Son Jesus with many in West Africa who have not yet heard. **Because of you**, during **2009** in Cote d’Ivoire, five new church plants were started, many new believers were baptized, **12** pastors and church leaders completed their training at **IBAO**, dozens of Christians are learning to read God’s Word, hundreds of children were exposed to the gospel through VBS, and our first church plant has been started in the country of Burkina Faso!

Thank-you, Friends, that you have not withheld God’s Son from Africa!

Celebrating the Lamb of God,
Larry and LeAnn Sellers