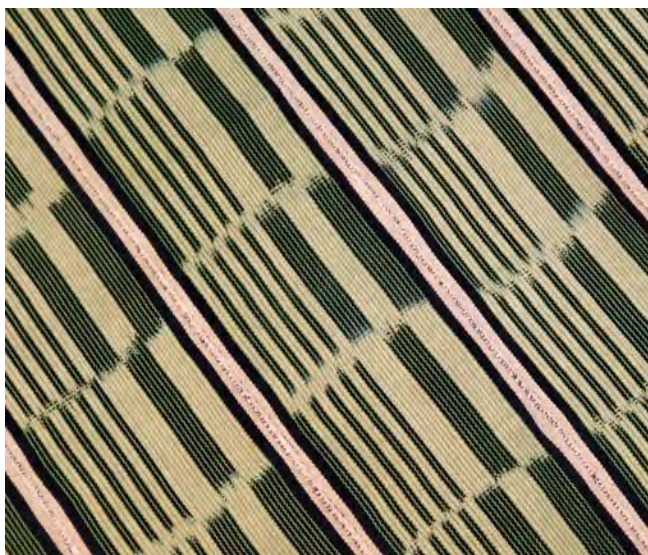




During the first part of April, we had the joy of hosting our Regional Coordinators, John and Gwen Johnson, on their first visit to Côte d'Ivoire. In addition to taking them to visit churches and church leaders, we enjoyed introducing them to some of the interesting parts of West African life and culture. One of these is the fascinating work of traditional weavers, especially those from the Senoufo culture in the North.

Weaving is always done by men, who learn their craft from early childhood by watching and helping their fathers, uncles, and elder brothers. They begin by learning to weave a simple white cloth, often used as burial cloths. Then they gradually learn to add colors, patterns, and occasional motifs, which can become quite intricate and complex.

These intricately woven cloths remind us often of our work here in Côte d'Ivoire. God is weaving some odd threads together, including us, to make something more beautiful than we could ever have imagined. Every so often, he throws in some unexpected events that add special motifs to the intricate background. Many times we do not see its design or understand the seemingly random motifs until much later when we look back over his long-term handiwork. We hope that this letter will help you see some of God's beautiful handiwork in the lives of our African brothers and sisters with whom we have been privileged to be woven into his beautiful tapestry of life.



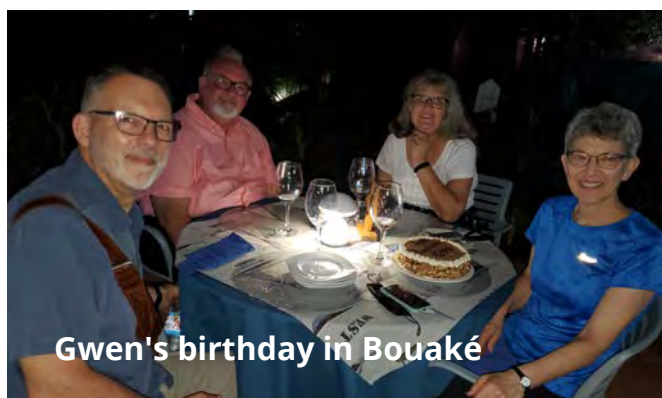
In addition to taking the Johnsons to discover the weavers in Korhogo, we took them to visit the Basilica of our Lady of Peace in Yamoussoukro, and we spent a night at our favorite getaway spot in Bouaké to celebrate Gwen's birthday. They also met pastors, visited churches in villages, towns, and cities across the country, and met some families whose homes were destroyed by flooding. When John was working in Disaster and Relief Aid for Global Strategy, he provided funding that helped the church rebuild these families' homes in new locations. They also experienced an African wedding, African meals, African handicrafts, and African life in both village and city settings. These were all part of the weaving that included our longtime friends and colleagues, John and Gwen Johnson, who have been woven into our life tapestry over the past 35 years.



Easter 2021 in Korhogo



Pastors Emmanuel and Anne Yeo



Gwen's birthday in Bouaké



New home for flood victims

Our last two months have woven in visits to several new church plants, one in the city of Bouaké and another in the small village of Gbotopla, both in the central region. We have also been privileged to dedicate a new baby for a young pastoral couple, do pre-marital counseling for a couple preparing for marriage, teach classes at IBAO, and attend meetings of the Executive Committee and all the pastors from around the country. We also helped provide some medical care and testing for Rokia, a young girl with a very serious inoperative congenital heart condition, also suffering from tuberculosis and anemia. Through the prayers and faith of her church family, she is regaining strength and showing signs of recovery. We were blessed to be part of a lively thanksgiving service at the Kononfla Church, seeking to raise funds to complete construction on the pastor's residence. These all contributed to the hues and motifs that have added design and meaning to the ongoing weaving of our life tapestry as well.



Whenever we visit Abidjan, we try to make contact with persons in the church who have moved there from upcountry and in some cases are too far away to attend any of our Abidjan churches. Recently we visited a young man, named Timothy, who came to Yamoussoukro for schooling and became a vital part of the youth there. He recently married a young lady, Nicole, who also grew up in the Yamoussoukro Church. We had a wonderful reunion with them, celebrating what God is doing in their lives and newly established home together. These special times add richness and texture to the woven tapestry of our lives and ministry in Côte d'Ivoire!



We are grateful for the impact each of you has had on our lives as integral threads woven into the ongoing tapestry of our lives and those with whom we work in Côte d'Ivoire.

Thank-you for weaving yourselves into
our life tapestry, *Larry,
& LeAnn*