

# THE SELLERS SEQUEL

ENJOYING THE JOURNEY AND EMBRACING THE DETOURS



## *Power & Water for Life*

After two months of being back in Cote d'Ivoire we are settling back into our home and ministry environment. Even after living in this country for 25 years, we still discover situations that take us by surprise. Some reflect positive changes in recent years, while others remind us that some things never seem to change.

After two weeks of self-quarantine, we began visiting area churches once again. In the past few weeks we have visited four very diverse congregations all in the central area of the country around Yamoussoukro.

One Sunday, three IBAO students accompanied us as we visited a rural church near Kononfla, pastored by an IBAO graduate. The students enjoyed their experience, and interacted well with Pastor Lucien and his family, along with some of the church members. To get to this church, we get off the highway and drive about a half a kilometer on a dirt road through a new development. But the most noticeable feature is not the road but what is above the road: a crisscrossed mess of wires, balancing on bamboo and wooden poles stuck precariously in the ground. Our truck barely missed touching the wires as we drove under them carefully.

Missionaries of the Church of God to Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa



IBAO Students on Sunday visit



Pst. Lucien, wife and daughter

The wires all converged into one main cable, the only source of electrical power for this new neighborhood. It may take a few more years before the electric company can catch up with the growth to install proper lines and meters. Is this not what the Church should look like: One source of power, sending the light of Christ and hope of a new life to people in all directions ?

The Kononfla Church began as a cell group under a thatched roof. Property was purchased on the outskirts of the town, a well was dug by hand to furnish water, and two workcamp groups helped to erect and roof the



current building. The congregation finished the building and continually added new features over the past ten years, including a parsonage on the church property to house their pastor and his young family.

After our Sunday visit for worship we were invited to the home of the pastor and his family. We were offered a cool drink as it was a warm day. During our visit, LeAnn asked the head of the church committee if the hand-dug well still had water. He mentioned that it was interesting that the well had dried up a few years ago. But to their surprise as soon the pastor and his family moved into the house, the well began to give water once again. The Lord

opened the flood gates! This well continues to serve not only the pastor's family but the whole community around the church as well! How typical of God's overflowing blessings: when we put them to use, they bring blessings to many others as well. But if they sit dormant, they dry up and are of no use to anyone.



★ Looking down inside the well!



### PRAYER REQUESTS:

- \*Pray for Côte d'Ivoire's national elections to proceed peacefully on Oct. 31.
- \*Pray for Executive Committee meetings taking place Nov.10-12.
- \*Pray for IBAO students as they travel and participate in classes Nov.16-27.
- \*Pray for the Mihsills traveling on home assignment at present.

# Year-End Projects: Past and Present

## Last Year: Lakpolo Project

We were overwhelmed last year with the generosity of donors to the Lakpolo project who gave over \$50,000 for this project designed to help the national church become more self-sufficient financially while opening new opportunities for ministry as well. Thus far a well has been drilled on the property at Lakpolo and a water tower erected, providing pure drinking water for this community. This water will also be used in the construction of the next phase, the building of a perimeter wall and sixteen small shops that will be rented out to local merchants. It will also include a literacy center to provide literacy services to the community. Eventually, a retreat center will be built on this property as well to provide a peaceful and ample location for retreats of all kinds. This will also serve to provide some income for the national church. A local church will also be planted at this location, the first evangelical church in this community.

Thank-you for making this possible!

*finish* .....  
**STRONG**



## This Year: National Church Assistance

Until the Lakpolo project is operative and providing income for the national church, there is an ongoing need for assistance to help the national executive committee and other national offices carry out coordination of ministry on all levels. This includes the planning and carrying out of national meetings of the General Assembly, the National Leadership Council, and pastoral meetings. This also includes helping local pastors in cases where the local church cannot provide adequate support. And if funds permit, this project will assist the national youth association in its first church-planting project: to plant a new church in the second-largest city of Bouaké, where a number of young church members attend university or trade schools.

Global Strategy has designated this project as one of fourteen to be included in a special one-of-a-kind year-end project in which all gifts to it will be matched up to \$50,000 during the months of November and December. If fully funded, this will go a long way to helping the national church become more self-sufficient in the next two years. We hope that you may consider contributing to this vital project before this exceptional year ends.

**(Designate gifts to Year-End Finish Strong Project # 42.70000)**



*Larry & Lelma*

