

SELLERS SEQUEL

THANKSGIVING

NOVEMBER, 2006

“Many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.”
2 Cor. 1:11 (NIV)

We approach the **Thanksgiving** season with thanks for all that God has done for us in answer to your prayers on our behalf in recent weeks. As expressed by the words of Paul above, we want you to give thanks with us for God’s favor in answer to your prayers for us as we try to recap some of them below.

The National Leadership Conference in Cote d’Ivoire exceeded our expectations and promises to bear much fruit in the life of the church and its leaders for years to come. All 21 invited leaders were present from all parts of the country. Though we had to change venues once again at the last minute, the new location turned out to be far better than the previous ones and less expensive. The material taught from The Purpose-Driven Life was excellent and stimulated great discussion as we sought to apply it to their contexts. We challenged each of the participants to teach the material in their own local churches in the coming months. We are eager to see the response and results.

The week after the conference, we flew to Florida, where LeAnn had surgery as scheduled. She is recovering well and regaining her strength. This stay in Florida has afforded us more time to spend with LeAnn’s family, especially her ailing 86-year-old grandmother. We also spent a week in Texas visiting Larry’s family. Larry did manage to get some work done on the French translation of his book for African pastors, but still has a long way to go.

We are scheduled to **leave on Nov. 3rd to return to Cote d’Ivoire**, passing through Casablanca where we will spend one night; our first time to visit Morocco. We hope to be back home in Yamoussoukro by Nov. 6th. However, the internal situation in Cote d’Ivoire is still rather shaky and uncertain. The first week of November is likely to be a pivotal time in terms of deciding what will happen over the next year. Please keep praying for the country, for the church and for us as we head back home to Cote d’Ivoire.

Once we get back, we have plenty of things to get caught up on and some new ministries starting up that we are involved in. LeAnn will resume her activities in training and overseeing literacy workers with the hope of opening several new literacy centers in rural villages over the next few months. Along with Kay Critser, she will be speaking for a regional women’s retreat in the northern region in late November. She is also working with local women’s groups, preparing for Christmas celebrations and with Sunday School teachers in developing curriculum for both Sunday School and VBS for next summer.

Larry’s main thrust until the end of the year is making preparation for the opening of IBAO, our Bible institute, planned for January 2007. Preparations include receiving and evaluating applications of potential students, then interviewing them and administering

entrance exams in Bible and French. Other jobs that still need to be done are in the areas of budgeting, curriculum development, getting furnishings ready for the classrooms and library, doing publicity for the school, etc. With so much to do, it will take all of us, Larry and LeAnn, Sherman and Kay, and Pastor Daniel on the IBAO Setup Committee working together to get these done by the time the first classes begin. We are starting this very needed institute for leadership training in faith that God will provide what we do not yet have: setup funds to get desks, chairs, bookcases, etc., as well as operating funds to maintain the school, pay utility bills, buy teaching supplies, support local teaching staff, etc. If you would like to contribute to these critical needs to train leaders to serve churches and plant new churches in West Africa, please send your contributions to Church of God Ministries, marked for **Project Number 42.40133 for Leadership Training: IBAO**.

Another concern for opening the Bible institute is that the multipurpose building in a Yamoussoukro where IBAO classes will be held is not yet completed and able to be fully utilized. Due to the fall of the US dollar and the escalation of the price of building materials in Cote d'Ivoire, the funds previously donated have fallen short of meeting the need to finish the building. Sherman estimates that we need an additional \$23,000 at least in order to finish the building. The building is currently being used by the Yamoussoukro Church and the recording studio is nearing completion to be used for upcoming radio broadcast production. However, the 2 conference rooms, 3 classrooms, and 3 offices are not yet completed. We desperately need these to be ready by January for use by IBAO as well as other national and local ministries. If you would be able to assist in supporting these projects, please send your gifts to Church of God Ministries clearly marked for **Project Number 42.40135 for Church development at Yamoussoukro**. We are hoping to dedicate the completed building during the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Church of God in Cote d'Ivoire in March 2007. However, if sufficient funding does not come in by next month, we will be forced to postpone the inauguration.

This need has been a subject of prayer for us for several years as the building has progressed slowly. But it has also been the source of much thankfulness as we have seen God's provision and favor through his people as a result of the prayers of many of you. For that we have more than enough reason to celebrate Thanksgiving this year in anticipation of even greater acts of favor and provision from God in the months ahead. Thank-you for being a major part of that.

With Thankful Hearts,

Larry and LeAnn