

THE SELLERS SEQUEL

Larry & LeAnn Global Strategy Missionaries
serving the Church of God in West Africa



Shifting Gears or Shifting Directions?



When learning to drive a stick shift car, shifting gears takes some getting used to! The temptation is to avoid changing the gear. Adapting to change is never easy, whether it shifting gears or shifting directions. We have had a few experiences this past month that have reminded us that God is in control of the gear shift and knows what is best all along the way. We are happy to let Him be in the driver's seat!

May 2021 was busy as IBAO classes were in session in Yamoussoukro for two weeks. We were involved in teaching all three courses. IBAO shifted gears by experimenting with online teaching for the first time. Dr. Kerry Robinson from Anderson, IN joined us online for an interview during our leadership course. It went well enough that we hope to offer online courses in the future.



When IBAO ended, we went to Korhogo for meetings and the General Assembly. For the first time, we had a day of teaching before the GA on the topic of Managing Our Finances God's Way. This was led by a young man who grew up in the church and is now a regional manager for the electric company.

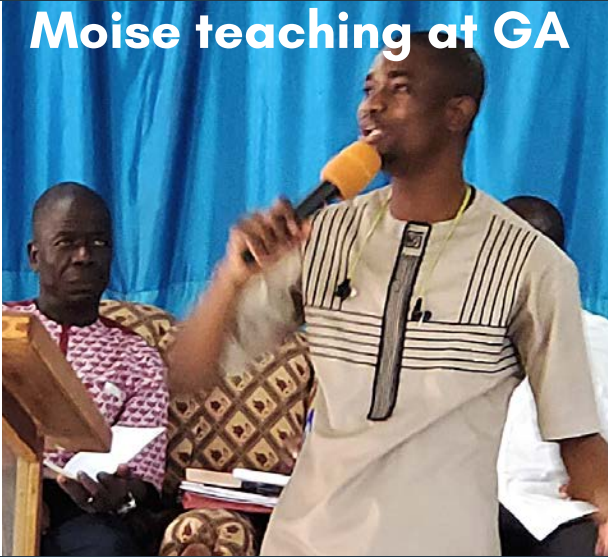
Rewing UP!



Pastor Issa was recognized for ordination at the General Assembly in Korhogo on May 28; however, he chose to share this celebration with his congregation in Toumodi.

Rev. Issa, an up-and-coming young leader, was ordained on June 13. Issa serves the congregation along with his wife and two children, Kolocholoma and Eli.

Moise teaching at GA



Pastor Emmanuel passing the Shepherd's Staff to Pastor Ehoussou, New Superintendent



Prayer Requests and Praises!

- Pray for IBAO's upcoming class on the Doctrines of the Church of God in July 2021.
- Pray for the Mihsills as they are preparing to return to Côte d'Ivoire in June 2021.
- Praise the Lord for being present with the church during the GA in Korhogo.
- Pray for the new Executive Commttee to lean on the Lord's guidance.
- Praise the Lord for the rains that have begun!
- Prayer for high school students taking exams which are very intense for two weeks.

cont. - Shifting Gears or Shifting Directions?

Moise did a great job and was much better received coming from a fellow African than from us as foreigners. The General Assembly surprised us by taking the Executive Committee into a new direction with the election of new officers that included a shift away from the former leadership to a new slate of leaders, including some new younger leaders added to the mix. The new bylaws changes were also adopted which include some major shifts in how pastors will be supported in the future. Some gear shifting took place and some direction-shifting is likely in store for the future! Please pray for Pastor Ehoussou, the new National Superintendent and his officers on the Executive Committee to follow God's lead in pursuing his shifts and new directions for the church!

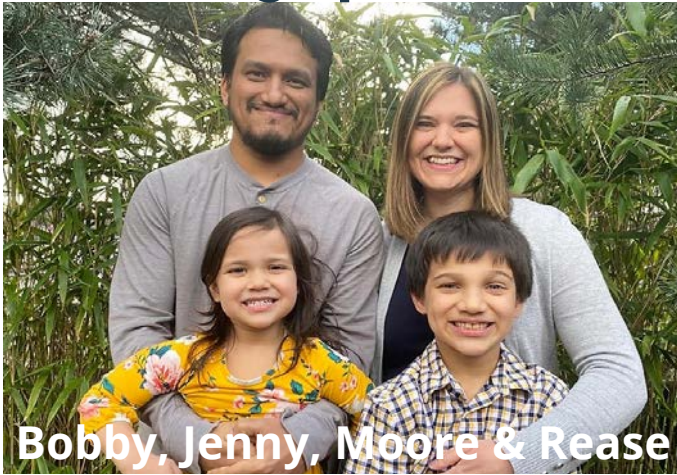


Gearing up for Service

To close the GA, seven pastors were recognized to move up in their credentialing process, two for ordination and five for licensing. In the photo below, these pastors were prayed for and welcomed by the members of the Ordination Committee. We were pleased to note that all but one of the above leaders were trained at IBAO. They have put their training to good use in serving the Lord. And the ordination process recognizes their efforts to "gear up" for greater service!



Gearing up to return!



Bobby, Jenny, Moore & Rease

We are anticipating the return of the Mihsill family, our co-workers, to Côte d'Ivoire. We would like to ask that you pray for them as they return to the field in late June. The last few days are always filled with last minute things to do. Please pray for their flights to be on time and smooth and for their re-acclimation back to Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa.



Though unusually late this year, our big rains finally began in June, bringing cooler weather, greener gardens, and work for anxious farmers who have been waiting to plant their fields.

We could never have imagined all that God has allowed us to be a part of during the past nine months here, due in large part to your faithful and ongoing support for our ministry in Côte d'Ivoire!

Like us, whether shifting gears or shifting directions for the future, we trust that God will be in control of the gear shift for your summer plans and beyond!



Shifting out of Neutral !

After the Assembly in Korhogo, we drove to Bouaké for three reasons: to check on Ezechiel, to visit the cell group there and to celebrate Ivoirien Mother's Day on May 30.

Ezechiel has been under treatment since October 5, 2020 for a Buruli Ulcer that had engulfed his whole right arm. When we arrived at the treatment center, we found him in very good spirits. Having finished all the skin grafts, Ezechiel had begun physical therapy to regain use of his hand. We are thrilled that he is moving out of neutral and gearing up to finish his school exams next year. We soon learned why he was so happy as our visit happened to fall on his 21st birthday. We thanked the Lord for Ezechiel and that God had encouraged us to purchase some items for Ezechiel, including a bag of candy to share with others who were in the center for the same treatment. We are so thankful for God's hand of healing on this tall blessed young man!

We spent Mother's Day visiting some of our other "children," students who are part of the new cell group there. And we spent a day at our favorite getaway spot with rescued animals roaming freely, such as the dik-dik below.



*Larry
& LeAnn*



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