

Sellers Sequel

MOVING FORWARD BY MOVING BACK

FORWARD
in Faith

God has an amazing sense of humor!!

We are sure God finds it humorous to see two people who grew up in the southern states of the United States and then spent the last 30 years in Africa now bundling up in sweaters, long sleeves and pants to stay warm in 40 degree weather. As we have been traveling the last several weeks, we have so enjoyed watching the display of God's handiwork unfold in splashes of bright hues of yellow, orange and red! We feel like children discovering something new, and we stand in awe and wonder. And as we watch the trees let go of their glory, we are reminded that God receives the highest glory when we let go of our own way and allow Him to lead us.

National Youth

Each summer the youth of the Church of God in Côte d'Ivoire look forward to their annual retreat. This year was no different. The retreat took place in late August in Bouake in the central part of the country. There were 75 present from different regions of the country.

For four days they received teaching, did activities, worshiped, and ate together. Several youth worship teams came together to lead services. We are excited to see what God is going to do in their lives! In the photo on the right are up-and-coming youth leaders who are active in their churches.





IBAO-Students

At the end of October, the students will have completed their internships, hopefully recognizing the importance of the 4Cs that are foundational to IBAO's philosophy of training. If they have a successful experience, they will have served with **COMPETENCE** and **CHARACTER**, employing the **CONTENT** from their courses of study within a particular **CONTEXT** of African life wherever they may serve. Following their internship, they will write their final paper reflecting on what their time of studies and of serving as an intern has brought into their lives, their ministry, and their walk with the Lord, and how they have been changed by their overall experience at IBAO.

We ask you to pray with us as we prepare for a new group of students to start at IBAO in March 2023. We are excited to see what God is going to do in the next few months as we prepare for the these new students. Below are the three interns, serving in local churches and preaching the Word.



**Mayala in
Abidjan**



**Hippolyte in
Kononfla**



Gossé in Trokpadrou



Moving Forward by Moving Back

Since September we have been traveling and speaking in churches in the Midwestern states and it has been so encouraging. In November we will be visiting churches in some Southern states. We so appreciate having a chance to see some of you during this home assignment. We would love to visit all of you, but time just will not allow us that opportunity. But we look forward to seeing you all on our next home assignment. We are also planning to be back into the USA for the Church of God Convention in Tampa in June 2023.

Once again we are seeing that God's humor is taking us by surprise. When we left Yamoussoukro, we were really not sure what God was planning for us as we move forward. And yet we knew that we needed to take some time to reflect about our move to Abidjan. All of our belongings are in storage in our old office in Yamoussoukro. We believe that God is leading us to move back to Abidjan after twenty years in Yamoussoukro. When we returned to Anderson we were thankful to have our RCs, John and Gwen Johnson, overlap with us for a few months.



John & Gwen Johnson with us

They have been very helpful during this time for us to seek what God's next steps may be for us. We anticipate expanding the French connection in the Church of God across Africa. We are looking at making our first trip back to DR Congo and Rwanda, our former fields, in April 2023. We are moving forward by moving back to visit these fields that were dear to us.

We ask YOU, our support team, to pray with us about this move and how it will open doors also for teaching, and helping the Abidjan church in its process of getting the property ready to relocate to in the coming year. We are still in need of suitable housing in Abidjan. We are looking at what might be our next steps for IBAO as well. Our move to Abidjan may open doors to expand its program as well.

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*Larry
& LeAnn*



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We can also arrange Zoom meetings.



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