



Sellers Sequel

Larry & LeAnn Sellers
Missionaries to Côte d'Ivoire

January–February 2018

Quick trip....

In December 2017 we took a quick vacation to be with family over the holidays. When we arrived into Indiana, the weather was the opposite of what we just left in Côte d'Ivoire. (Burr!) We made our first stop in Indiana to see those in the Church of God Ministries office and to pick up our daughter Laura to join us as we traveled to Florida.

As we started our trek to Florida to be with LeAnn's side of the family, the weather became closer to what we are used to in Côte d'Ivoire.

It was a joy to have time to spend with our family in Florida this Christmas, a rare event for us in our 32 years on the mission field. In addition



to decorating the tree, and sharing special times of Christmas at church and home, we also celebrated birthdays and our anniversary. The older we get, the more important and precious these special times with family mean to us.

Do you know what kind of fruit is in this photo ??

Check our Facebook Larry N LeAnn Sellers, to find the answer!



Get Ready, Set, Go....

We landed in Abidjan on January 6 with the Mihsill family, our co-workers, returning from a year on home assignment, along with Jenny's mother. We are thankful that the Lord helped us get on the same flights all the way to Abidjan, including baggage. And what an adventure we have been on since landing in Abidjan!



We had only been in country for three weeks when our first guests arrived. The CBH-USA team came to connect with our radio team in CI that produces French broadcasts aired throughout the country, targeting teens and young adults. Our local radio team is made up of a talented group of three speakers and two technicians, who prepare weekly programs, leading panels of young adults and church leaders discussing themes of interest to African youth.



The USA team, made up of John Walters, Jim Lyon, and Harry Smothers,

worked with our local team to install new equipment and discuss production issues. They also met with the Radio Committee to make plans for future radio programming and development. While with us, our guests traveled across the country, shared at churches in Korhogo and Yamoussoukro, toured the famous Basilica of our Lady of Peace, and also did some taping for future *CBH Viewpoint* broadcasts. We were delighted to host the general director of Church of God Ministries, Jim Lyon, on his first ever visit to Côte d'Ivoire.



Prayer & Praises

- Praises that Joseph & wife are much better.
- Pray for Larry, who is almost finished with his doctoral studies.
- Pray for COP, Paul Maxfield and couple who come in late March.
- Pray for upcoming activities for local congregations, Easter, VBS, Youth Retreat, Pastors and Wives Retreat.

The Upcoming National Women's Conference

The National Women's Bureau is in the midst of final preparations for the upcoming National Conference. On April 5 women from the Church of God across Côte d'Ivoire plan to join together in the town of Issia-ville for their conference on the theme "Being Godly Mothers." This will be followed by the Women's National Assembly to carry out their annual business.



The National Women's Bureau is actively working to become self-supporting with two fund-raising projects. They have a pig project located in the North, with four pigs for which they are building a large sty to care for their upcoming litters. They also have two fields of manioc (cassava) in the central part of the country. The National Women's bureau would like to be able to fund their activities as well as their transport to the bureau meetings, which is a major expense and obstacle. They would appreciate your prayers and support for their conference, travels and speaker.

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Sellers Sequel is published quarterly, normally. We believe that prayer is vital. If you have a request, we would love to pray with you.

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Ready, Set, and Still Going...

A few days after the CBH team left, we received our friend Jeff Vaneps, who came to help us prepare for upcoming work teams to build a new church building in the town of Sinfra. Jeff shared his own testimony of God's grace, protection, and calling with the people at the Sinfra Church of God. They were excited to hear how God works in the lives of ordinary people who are willing to be used by Him to serve others. They were also overjoyed to hear that others would be coming later this year from the USA to help them build

their church building. Jeff led a work team several years ago to build a house for the pastor at this same location. And the church has been worshipping in the pastor's living room since then. As you can see, they have outgrown this space and are in urgent need for more space. So they were delighted to see Jeff return with a desire to help them build their first worship facility next

to the pastor's house. The next day, Jeff staked out the footers and the local people dug the footers in preparation to pour the foundation.

Jeff will lead a group from MN in August to begin the work on the

walls with other groups to come later to help with various stages of the building. We are eagerly preparing to receive the work campers by setting up our bunkhouse and making plans for the construction work. If you would like to be a part of working with Ivorian believers to have a place to worship God as part of a work team, please contact us.



Just two days after our return from the USA, LeAnn was startled to find a friend from the Plate-forme Church in the central district, whom she had helped after an operation in early 2017, struggling once again physically. Though we were sad to learn that she had a large tumor surrounding one kidney, we were more inspired by her faith and trust that the Lord was in control of her life. Justine went to be with the Lord on February 6. Justine was always so grateful; she loved to hear the Word read in her language of Baoulé. Anangaman (the Lord) was with her in each moment. Justine's funeral was an occasion for JOY! Joy of knowing someone who loved God and others and was ready to serve others. Justine was ready to meet her Savior. It was hard to let her go. Please pray for her family, many of whom are still unbelievers.

Ready

Youth From Yamoussoukro



Through the years that we have been in Côte d'Ivoire, the majority of our time we have lived in Yamoussoukro. We have attended the Yamoussoukro Church of God whenever we were not traveling to other congregations. During this time, LeAnn has really sensed a need for the young youth. (Persons who are between 13 years of age to 20. Note that in Côte d'Ivoire, anyone who is over 17 until they are married are called youth.) This started with a special Sunday school class separate from the young children. During these classes, they felt the freedom to ask questions about the Bible, faith, What is the church?, Who is the church?, etc.



This is a place where they can go deeper in their understanding of who they are in Christ. This group continues to grow both numerically and spiritually.

The older youth have recognized the importance of this group and are inviting them to become part of the youth group. On February 18 the youth committee came to our home with the young youth for a special time of sharing. How encouraging to see almost 60 young and older youth at our home on the veranda! What a joy to see what God is doing in the lives of these young persons. Enjoy a few photos of this special gathering on Facebook.

Upcoming Events:

- Children of Promise, Visitors, March 25-April 1
- National Women's conference, May 5-8
- General Assembly for the National Church of God in Côte d'Ivoire, May 11
- Larry's Doctoral Graduation, June 9 in Pasadena, California
- Vacation Bible School and Youth Retreat in August



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