

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2019!! We thank the Lord for all He has done in 2018! We are not spending time on our veranda so much these days due to the dust and dry wind of the Harmattan season. But we cannot help but reflect over this past year concerning the

many exciting events that have taken place in the life of the Church of God in Côte d'Ivoire during 2018. We wish we had time and space to share them all with you! However, we hope that you will get a small glimpse of what God is doing in Cote d'Ivoire as you read here about the events of the last three months of 2018.

On October 23-26, shortly after we returned from Kenya, the Northern District Pastors and Spouses Retreat took place! We are thankful for the Bridgewater Church of God in Hamilton, Ohio, that made this special event possible! It was a highlight of the year for the six couples present, most having never participated in a marriage retreat. It was amazing to see the difference in their faces and demeanors when comparing the photos of their arrival and departure. They left with a new spark in their marriage.

Immediately following the retreat, the Northern District Pastor asked us to visit five



new groups in a remote area near Kanoroba. We were eager to see what God was doing in this new area of the country. What an exciting adventure! We traveled over dusty, bumpy roads to visit all five new cell groups on Saturday. Then on Sunday, believers from all five groups came together for worship at the Kanoroba center. The building was full of people, but there was one woman who caught LeAnn's attention, as she seemed focused on the reason we were together that morning! We had come to worship the Lord and seek His guidance on our lives. His Word was her focus! LeAnn discovered that this woman (seen in the photo) is a Sunday school teacher and

a women's leader at one of the cell groups! In rural areas of the country, not many women are able to read, so she was a rare find.

During November 5-16, IBAO was in session. Larry Sellers and Jenny Mihsill taught Introduction to the Bible, and Pastor Emile taught Spiritual Disciplines. The students are doing very well and seem to be enjoying assimilating and putting into practice what they are learning!!

During this period, Larry and Bobby Mihsill made a special trip to Liberia at the request of Mike Webb, region Coordinator for Africa, to join him in meeting with Liberian leaders and teaching during the first General Assembly of the Church of God in Liberia. It was an extra blessing to meet up with Bishop Edward Nkansah and his wife Patience from Ghana for this special trip! It was moving to see the hunger for teaching of the Word of God among Liberian believers.









Thanksgiving this year was a fun time of having our co-workers, the Mihsills, and some new American friends over to celebrate the occasion with some of the traditional ingredients. We have so much to be thankful for in this past year!!

This Christmas was like no other! We were thrilled to have our daughter, Laura,

with us this year. What fun to watch Laura visiting the places and persons that she enjoyed growing up with here in Côte d'Ivoire! We went to the church's Christmas watch-night service, until midnight!

The New Year's Eve service in Yamoussoukro is one of our favorite highlights of the year! It is





need to be under the control of the Lord and guidance of the Holy Spirit as we usher in the new year on our knees. This year something new was added to the program that was extremely impactful: a drama by the youth of the Lord's crucifixion that powerfully presented God's love and sacrifice for us! At the end of the service during an altar call, six new persons received Jesus as their Savior. We ended the service by celebrating the first spiritual births of the year for these new "babies" who were "reborn" on January 1st, 2019! Please pray for these six persons to stay strong in the face of opposition and temptation.

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a moment to reflect on how good God has been over the past year. It is also a time to recognize in the upcoming year our

As we write this letter, we realize that our time is short before we will come to the United States for **Home** Assignment. We are so very grateful for your support of us and the ministry here in Côte d'Ivoire.

We would like to begin as soon as possible setting up times to visit and update you on what has transpired here in Côte d'Ivoire in the last three years.

Our arrival into the United States will be in mid- June 2019. If you have a time when you would like to schedule a visit, please contact us at <u>LeAnnSellers@chog.org</u>, Facebook: Larry N LeAnn Sellers, or we would be glad to chat with you via Skype(mamalauralou or Larry Sellers).



Prayer Requests

- Executive Committee of the Church of God in Cl meet February 5-8.
- National Women's General Assembly, February 16.
- National Bylaws Committee meeting February 22 in preparation for the National General Assembly in May.
- IBAO be in session March 11-22.
- Workcamp group arrives March 31, to put the roof on the Sinfra Church of God

We look forward to attending the Convention of the Church of God with a global emphasis, in Orlando, FL. If you plan to be there let us know. We would enjoy connecting with you over a meal or after a service. If you have not registered

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"In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps." Proverbs 16:9

As we began a new year, we all have our plans and ideas for what we hope to accomplish in the future. But as believers in Christ, we recognize that the Lord is the one who is truly able to determine our future steps. Please join us in seeking the Lord's direction for our future steps in this new year. He has proven over and over to be capable to do more in and through us than we could have ever dreamed of in our own plans and imaginations. May 2019 be a year in which the Lord directs your steps to places and spaces far beyond your wildest dreams and imaginations!

African Proverb -







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