



# Sellers Sequel

January-May  
2019

A view from the Veranda



Larry and LeAnn  
Sellers  
Côte d'Ivoire



**HAPPY SPRING 2019!!** *Overwhelmed* is the word that best describes how we have felt in recent months! While many might see this as a negative comment, we think that you will see just the opposite as you read on! We have watched what seemed impossible for years become **overwhelmingly possible** in just the last several months. We praise the Lord for His amazing way of showing us that He is in control of the work of the Church of God in Côte d'Ivoire.



Tortiya 2011

## Jumbo-sized Tortiya!

We were invited to go to the **Tortiya** church of God along with Pastor Yeo and several other leaders. Wow! What a wonderful surprise awaited us! We knew that the church was in the process of raising up a new building for the past two years, but this surpassed our wildest dreams for this congregation! Their building capacity went from 70 to over 500 persons. It was exciting to see how the congregation worked



Tortiya 2019

together to build their new sanctuary. Though still in the process of being finished, the people could wait no longer to begin worshiping in their new building! The northern district has already held several other special meetings in it as well. The congregation did not tear down the old sanctuary, as they had plans for it to be used for meetings and for Sunday school for the children!

## Overwhelming Thankfulness

We were invited in February to attend the harvest festival at the Church of God in Kononfla, located in the central district. This is a special time in the life of the churches when people bring the first fruits of the harvest from their fields to thank God for His blessings. These funds in Kononfla are to be used



to finish a house for the pastor and his new bride on the church property.



This service is a time of rejoicing, with singing, dancing, skits, and offerings that are given from the produce that they have grown in their fields, or even their time to help with the building process or giving of cement or sand. Pastor Lucien and his new wife are preparing move to the parsonage.





### When Dreams Come True!

A dream has come to reality for Pastor Terry and Ruth Canfield, our friends since college and who have pastored many of our supporting churches in Indiana. They had long held on to a dream of someday visiting us in Côte d'Ivoire. In celebration of forty years in ministry, their dream came true when they spent ten days with us in Côte d'Ivoire in May. This trip was planned and carried out by their two adult sons, who knew of their parents' dream and worked to make it a reality.

Pastor Terry helped Larry teach a pastoral ministry course at IBAO. The students appreciated his experience and wisdom in sharing from his many years of ministry in the US. He also shared or preached in IBAO chapel sessions and the Yamoussoukro Church Sunday services. We were greatly blessed by their time with us, sharing Côte d'Ivoire with them and having much fun together. Our thanks to their boys for making this dream a reality!

### Another Dream Comes True!

In April, we welcomed a work team of three men from Minnesota, the second group this year to help us raise the new church building at Sinfra. The Sinfra congregation received its first work team in 2006, building a house for the pastor. For the past 13 years the church has been meeting in the pastor's living room for services. Throughout those years, they held a dream that one day they would have their own church building. Over the past 8 months, two work teams helped their dream come to pass, putting up the walls last September and then putting on the roof this April. But they did so much more than just build a building!



They encouraged young men from the Sinfra Church of God to use their vigor, gifts, and strength to serve God together. They taught youth to use tools and develop their abilities to their fullest and how to have fun while working together for the Lord. Even more than a building, they built bridges of friendship across cultural and language barriers, bringing encouragement to people from across the ocean. And they left their African counterparts with a sense of pride in accomplishing a task together with excellence. Thanks to Jeff, Jack, and Dan for giving so much of yourselves to these young men and the Sinfra Church of God. Even with work still to be done on the building, the church held its first worship service in the new building on Easter Sunday with overwhelming joy and celebration!

See the joy in action in this link: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/nZCQ2R56XztnAyyM6>

### Overwhelming Healing

Joseph and Rachelle Coulibaly, a young couple who have been married only about two years, live in Korhogo. Joseph was attending the Tortiya congregation, when he met Rachelle, the daughter of Pastors Emmanuel and Anne Yeo. We asked for prayer for Rachel during 2018 as she was struggling with some issues that severely affected her physical and mental health, leaving her in a state where she could not speak for several months. But the Lord has done a miracle of overwhelming healing in their lives. Rachelle gives all the glory to God for the overwhelming love and healing He has freely poured out on her life. Rejoice and praise the Lord with us for his amazing touch upon the life of this young couple!



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### Overwhelming Joy

What a wonderful surprise for LeAnn on May 5! We did not know that Esther was attending the new cell group in Korhogo where Larry was invited to preach. When he asked for someone to read the scripture, Esther jumped up and began reading in Senoufo. LeAnn was at the main church in Korhogo that day, so Larry surprised her by bringing Esther over to see her after the services.



LeAnn met Esther in a most unusual way. She is the young lady who was involved in a terrible accident on the way to an all-night prayer service in the village of Nouple a few years ago. Esther, her husband, and sister-in-law were on a motorcycle heading to the church when they were struck by a large transport truck. They all suffered major injuries. To save Esther's life, they had to amputate her leg just below her knee. When LeAnn met Esther, at the hospital she had the same smile on her face as you see in this photo. At the hospital during her recovery, the nurses could not keep Esther from trying to walk. She was determined she was going to walk. The nurses gave her a crutch to help her get started. As we were leaving the hospital, Esther ran with her crutch to meet us at the main gate to say goodbye. Today Esther is in an all-girls school; she will graduate in 2020! Esther loves Jesus and knows that He is her reason to live! God has so overwhelmingly touched the life of Esther!



Again, God just keeps pouring on His blessings. The two boys in this photo have history with us again in a most unusual way. When these brothers were growing up, they lost both of their parents. The church helped to take care of them in every way possible. The youngest brother was just a baby. A man and his wife took him and raised him until his family was able to care for him. Today, these two boys still attend the church in Korhogo. The younger one is sponsored through the Children of Promise program. What a joy to see how God uses the church to pour out His overwhelming love!

### Overwhelming Victory

To top all of this of..., on April 15, 2019, we drove to Abidjan to do the final work of transferring the deed for the Yamoussoukro property into the church's name. This has involved months of red tape, delays, and issues we never thought possible. Through it all, God has remained faithful to us. Rejoice, rejoice, the Lord is good! Yes, if all the amazing ways that God has shown us in the above letter is not enough, He has continued to overwhelm us one more time!



We received word on April 18, 2019, that the Abidjan land had been released by the courts and granted to us officially to begin building on soon. It has been a six-year process from the time we first purchased this property until now that it has been granted to the Church of God in Côte d'Ivoire. There are still a few more procedures and paperwork issues to wade through before actually moving onto the property, but we are finally seeing the signs of overwhelming victory.

Our arrival into the United States will be June 4, 2019. If you have a time when you would like to schedule a visit, please contact us at [LeAnnSellers@chog.org](mailto:LeAnnSellers@chog.org), Facebook: Larry N LeAnn Sellers, or we

would be glad to chat with you via Skype(mamalauralou or Larry Sellers).

#### Prayer Requests

- District Roundtable meetings will take place this summer
- Larry and LeAnn Sellers will be returning to the US for Home Assignment.
- Central District Women's General Assembly and conference, July 11-13
- IBAO in session May 13-24.
- PRAISE God that roof is on the Sinfra building and it is holding on tight despite the heavy winds.

## Will you be attending the Church of God Convention in Orlando

### in June 2019?

If so, we would love to connect with you!

Email us at

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