

Sellers Sequel



Larry and LeAnn Sellers
Côte d'Ivoire/USA



Reflections and Reconnections along the Road

Since we have been in the USA for the past five months and are far from our veranda in Yamoussoukro, our View from the Veranda is more like a View from our Vehicle, or some other mode of transport. Upon our arrival in the USA in June, we purchased our first personal car in the States in 34 years of marriage. And since then have put 17,500 miles on it, traveling in 31 states. In addition to driving across the country, we have also traveled to some places by plane, ship, train and bus. The views from our vehicle have been varied and vast—from the desert-scapes of Nevada to the breathtaking cliffs of the Oregon Coast. From the wheat-covered plains of Kansas to the glacier-covered mountains of coastal Alaska, we have found no lack of marvelous views to captivate our attention as we drive across the USA.

June - October 2019



Purchasing our 1st car in the USA!

But even more than rediscovering the beautiful vistas that this country affords, we have been so moved by the many re-connections with friends that we have been able to enjoy along the way. We have reconnected with friends serving across the country, many with whom we were in Bible college together 40 years ago. We were blessed to attend the installation of a longtime friend as pastor of one of our supporting churches. We had the privilege of spending a week traveling across Alaska with another couple that has supported us for many years. We have rejoiced with churches and pastors that are thriving in vital and creative ministries, as well as encouraged and prayed with those struggling to keep the church doors open. We have visited both churches and individuals that have been supporting us and the work in Côte d'Ivoire for many years. We especially enjoyed spending two weeks in beautiful Oregon, sharing at the Willamette Valley Camp meeting, meeting new friends, and exploring the majestic Cascade mountains, the amazing water falls of Silver Falls State Park, and the beauty of the coastal rain forests, cliffs, and beaches. In these few months we have been so blessed to re-connect with so many of God's beautiful people and places across a large part of the USA.



Before beginning our home assignment, according to Ivorian custom we had to "ask for the road," this meant asking the Executive Committee of the Church of God and

friends in the church for permission to take leave of them for the next nine months during our Home Assignment. We then began our trip back to the United States via Paris. We were in Paris for three days to catch up on some rest and visit some of our favorite places there. On June 4, we took a direct flight from Paris to Indianapolis, which we have decided is the best way to go. We are thankful for Pastor Terry Canfield, his wife Ruth, their son, Nate and our daughter, Laura, who met us in Indianapolis. Our next stop was to our new home base for the next nine months, provided by East Side Church of God in Anderson. We are overwhelmed by their love and generosity to us.



After purchasing our vehicle in Texas, we drove to Orlando, Florida, to attend the annual All-Africa Team Meetings, followed by the three-day Convention of the Church of God.

These meetings provided times of communication with our regional coordinators as a group, to share about our ministries (good and difficult) with our co-workers in Africa, and then to pray for each other. The Africa regional team was also able to express our thanks to Mike and Heather Webb for their service to encourage us the missionaries, but also the African national leaders to work together as a body across the continent. The convention was filled with opportunities to hear God's word and reconnect with those we have not had the occasion to visit as well as many pastors, missionaries from other regions, and friends from college days.



We were also able to be a part of the All-Africa National Leaders meeting during that time. The missionaries and national leaders each expressed their thanks to our Africa regional coordinators, Mike and Heather Webb, as they move on to Children of Promise as the new global directors.

We then traveled a little south to LeAnn's family home in Sarasota, Florida to celebrate a milestone with her mother, Sonja Rathfelder for her 80th birthday. It was great to have Laura and Lee both with us then as well as the rest of our family and some friends. It is such an honor to have a mother who has faithfully supported us in our work and prayed for us daily throughout our ministry. We are so blessed to call her Mom!





In July, we began meeting with our supporting congregations! We are so thankful for our Living Link congregations and their faithfulness to us through the years. We traveled to California and drove up the West Coast, meeting with congregations along the way. We so enjoyed getting to meet up with friends and some supporters in Alaska. We then headed through the plains and were able to meet up with a few more supporters in South Dakota and Minnesota. We are so grateful for God’s hand upon us as we have traveled. We will be posting photos of our visits with Living Link supporters on Facebook (see Larry N LeAnn Sellers).



With five months remaining in our home assignment, we look forward to re-connecting with many more of you, especially in the Midwest and southern states. In October, we were present at the national women's convention in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, we attended and shared at the Cove retreat in Asheville, North Carolina; and we visited churches and supporters in Kentucky, Virginia, Michigan and Indiana. And in November we will visit churches in Michigan, Ohio and Chicago, Illinois. We hope to see many of you as we share in these places or along the way.



SUSTAINABILITY IN CÔTE D’IVOIRE: IT ALL STARTS WITH WATER

The [Lakpolo Ministry Center project](http://www.choglobal.org/lakpoloministrycenter/) in Côte d’Ivoire is one of the four projects featured during Global Strategy’s [2019 impactX2](#) year-end campaign. To learn more about the Lakpolo Ministry Center project or to donate, visit the project page at www.choglobal.org/lakpoloministrycenter/

In the approach to the dry season, a reddish-brown dust covers the car as we approach



Korhogo in northern Côte d’Ivoire. Even the normally green leaves on the trees are brown with dust. In this arid region sits nearly two acres of prime property that the Lord has entrusted to the Church of God. The church intends to develop this property to launch several projects for expanding ministry and generating income to help the church become more self-sustaining. Plans for this property on the edge of Korhogo, the nation’s third largest city, include the development of a retreat and conference center,

small shops for rent, literacy classes, and agricultural projects to serve the community on this growing side of the city.

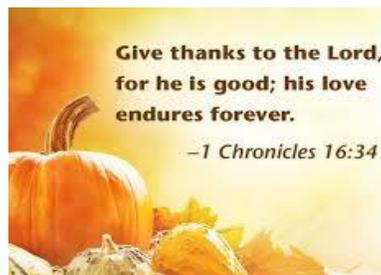
The city is rapidly growing. Lakpolo, once a small village of the Senoufo tribe, has recently been incorporated into the urbanized area and is being developed by the local government. Houses are already being built in the vicinity. As a newly developing area, there is a great need for commercial space, literacy training, areas to hold public events, and Christian guidance. At this strategic location between a medical dispensary and a nearby elementary school, a church will also be planted, ministering holistically to the needs of the residents.

But it all starts with water. The first phase of development will include drilling a well, as well as the construction of sixteen small shops and a perimeter wall. The second phase will add a dormitory, conference center, and kitchen facility. Initially, the church will meet in the conference center, until a separate church building is built.

With sustainability as the vision, revenue from the rental of the sixteen initial shops will provide resources for the national church to carry out much of its ministry as well as to develop other projects on the property, including agriculture and livestock. Evening courses in Bible and literacy will be held for the community as many area inhabitants are unable to read and write. Ivorian national church leaders (pictured) are excited about the vision for the Lakpolo Ministry and Activities Center. Global Strategy missionary Bobby Mihsill was with them in October and looked around the land, taking their photo in front of this sign, which, translated, reads "Church of God, Côte d'Ivoire."

This project is currently featured as part of Global Strategy's 2019 year-end impactX2 initiative. The first \$50,000 given to the four featured projects will be matched through December 31, 2019.

As this special time of the year approaches when we reflect on the amazing ways that God has BLESSED each one of us, we want to say thank you to each one that has prayed and supported us through this year, 2019. Your faithfulness and sacrifice have made our work so much more fruitful and blessed!



**Happy
Thanksgiving
to
each one of
YOU!**

Prayer Requests

- All Pastors Meeting December 6, 2019
- Larry and LeAnn Sellers as they travel for their Home Assignment.
- National Women's General Assembly and conference, February 2020
- IBAO in session November 2019
- Pray for a third church to start the COP program
- Pray for students making decisions to follow the Lord's call to be trained for ministry at IBAO
- Pray for funding needed for the Lakpolo project.



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