

# THE SELLERS SEQUEL



## God is Initiating something new in 2022

*See, I am doing a new thing! ... I am making a way in the wilderness... Isa. 43:19*



Before we get too far into the New Year we want to update you on what God unfolded before us in December 2021. We were so grateful to have our Regional Coordinators, John and Gwen Johnson come visit us in December! They were such a blessing in helping us really get started packing up and letting go of lots of old files (see photo of Gwen shredding old reports to the left) and our belongings. They also participated in several meetings with the Executive Committee and the Central District.

John also preached at the Yamoussoukro Church of God with Larry interpreting. We remember how French rolled off John's lips as he expressed the idea that God is always (toujours) faithful! We also had several personnel meetings in between celebrating birthdays (Bob Mihsill and LeAnn) and packing!





## Renewed Compassion



In December, the Yamoussoukro Church held a special service, called Operation Dorcas, to provide for widows and orphans in the congregation. The church collected funds throughout the year to purchase rice, oil, and canned meats which were then presented to eight widows and three orphans along with a cash gift on this special day. This sign of compassion for those in need by local Christians is another sign that God is initiating something new in the church: recognition that our role is not only to receive God's blessings, but to pass them on to others in need as well!

## A New Generation of Families & Leaders



As the Mihsills took the Johnsons to Abidjan to fly back to Egypt, we traveled to Korhogo for the wedding of one of our Ivorian sons named Salomon. We have known him since he was a young teenager as he used to interpret for us into the Senoufo language when we traveled in the North, his home area. He is a bright and committed young leader in the church, now working as a pilot for the national airlines of Cote d'Ivoire. He married a young lady named Ruth who also grew up in the Korhogo Church and is trained as a civil engineer. This young couple is typical of a new generation of quality leaders that God is raising up to serve the church in the future. God is initiating something new in the church in 2022!!



This is a photo of the women bring gifts!

Salomon and Ruth had a lovely and lively ceremony with Larry performing the church ceremony, following the civil ceremony at the City Hall. Then the newly married couple were presented at church the next morning. Tailors in the church designed and made all the wedding party garments for all three ceremonies. God is certainly initiating something new in their life together in 2022!!



## Today's Children - Tomorrow's Leaders

In the early days of 2022, we visited the Kononfla Church for a Sunday service. It was a joy to see the exuberance of the people in their worship and the presence of new children and new life in the Sunday school – God is initiating a new generation of Africans who desire to worship him and learn about him!







## IBAO Update

The new year also signaled the first IBAO module of 2022 and the final one for the current group of students before beginning their internships. These students, though our smallest IBAO class ever, have been our most faithful and motivated to complete their studies. In March, they will come to IBAO one last time for practical training and internship orientation. Then in April they will begin to serve as interns under experienced pastors in various local church settings, from a new church

plant in a heavily populated suburb of Abidjan, to working with an experienced church planter to plant new churches in rural villages in the west of the country, to serving established churches in the northern or central regions. In several cases, they will serve in different ethnic groups from their own, meaning they may need to adjust to a new language, culture and traditions in order to reach the local people in their own contexts. God is certainly initiating something new in the lives of these young men who are following his calling on their lives to serve him in new ways in 2022!

## New Directions in 2022

While we have sensed that God had something new in store for us in the future, he initiated it much sooner than we anticipated, but it became apparent that it was right in line with his good timing. Since our landlord told us last July that he would be retaking the house that has been our home for the past 20 years, we knew that we would need to be out of the house in early 2022. So since November, we have been sorting, cleaning out and ridding ourselves of years of files, clothes, books, and other belongings that we no longer need. We stored our full house of furniture and personal belongings into our former office that we will rent from our landlord for



the next year. When our landlord arrived in early February, we were almost entirely moved out of the house. Since then we have been living in a nearby hotel until we finish our responsibilities with IBAO and the national leadership in March. We will travel to the USA in early April for our home assignment. Upon our return to CI next year, we will begin a new assignment based out of Abidjan, where we began our West Africa ministry 26 years ago. Future newsletters will share more of the details as God initiates something new for us and our future. Thank you for your continued partnership with us in the ministry in West Africa! We look forward to connecting with many of you during 2022.

We are excited to see what God will do through you in 2022!

## CONNECT

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