

February, 2008 **LABAN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

*Greetings in Jesus' Name,*

We're having a party! This is the year of 70/30 for Laban Ministries International: 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Laban and Marcella's departure for the then Belgian Congo on October 20, 1938 and 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jim and Nancy's departure for what was then known as Zaire on December 4, 1978. The Laban Smiths pioneered missions in the bush of Africa to cannibalistic pagans who were transformed by the power of the blood of Christ. What a heritage they left us! Will you help us pour out love and adoration to our great I AM for his unmatched faithfulness all of these years? God inhabits the praises of His people. He loves to hear us rehearse, recount and reiterate His awesome deeds. Choosing not to be in awe of Him bankrupted Israel, and their sin sick souls spent 40 years in the wilderness. We want to spend a whole year exalting God together with you, lifting His Name, seeking His face, rejoicing in Him, reveling in His lavish acts of mercy, kindness, and love, bowing before Him in worship, reviewing His blessings, and recommitting ourselves to the work He has entrusted to all of us in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

A kick off benefit dinner will begin the anniversary celebration on October 23, 2008 at the Crystal Gardens. Shawn and Rob Lantz, Greg and Nicol Sponberg, Selah, Todd and Angie, and Jack and Molly Smith will join us. A special room has been reserved for Shawn's book signing of her first publication, *Congo Vignettes*. A pre release will take place some time in April for Laban supporters and friends, and the book is scheduled to be in Family Christian bookstores by July of this year. We will continue to celebrate God's faithfulness to Laban following the October event with special activities which are now being planned for the rest of 2008 and into almost all of 2009. What a year God is going to give us!

Will you pray about bringing 4 of our Congolese staff to the US? It is time for another visit after 7 years! They will enrich the lives of all they touch. Speaking of Congo, we are waiting on the Lord's provision to return. As soon as we hear from Him, we will make arrangements to go.

In the midst of anticipating the phenomenal joy that this year and next will bring, our souls are shocked by the news the doctors delivered to Angie and Todd on January 7 regarding their unborn baby, Audrey Caroline. Multiple anomalies including non-functioning kidneys, a hole in her heart, an enlarged heart that occupies 75% of her chest cavity, buds for lungs, and no amniotic fluid made them draw the conclusion that "the baby is not compatible with life." We wait on the Lord. Please, please pray with us. Audrey continues to kick and grow and can survive as long as she remains inside the womb, but will become more and more constricted in the process of her development with no liquid cushion to allow her to expand and no fluid to flush through her system thus allowing her organs to continue to develop. We will pray for a miracle to the very end. You can keep tabs on Audrey's condition by logging into [www.audreycaroline.blogspot.com](http://www.audreycaroline.blogspot.com). Thank you for standing with us, for praying for us, and for investing in the lives of our worthy brothers and sisters in Congo. Thank you for fighting the Good Fight with us, for placing value on the Congolese, for helping us snatch them from the unquenchable raging fires of hell. We cannot do this alone. You are a vital link in the ongoing of Laban. **We are asking you to set aside the month of March to intercede for Laban Ministries everyday.** May the real power and thrust behind this work be God the Holy Spirit and prayer. God bless you and make His face shine upon you.

Servants of THE KING,