

January, 2009

Hi Everyone,

Another year of ministry has come and gone. The Bible Institutes will soon be in full swing again after Christmas break. Evangelism is reaching out at a healthy pace. The Women's Literacy Center continues to lead women from a state of ignorance and despair to one of gleeful triumph as they recognize, read, memorize, and embrace the life-changing Word for themselves. Radio Glory is loved and listened to by millions of people who otherwise may not have the opportunity to hear Scripture taught exegetically verse by verse from qualified men and women who attempt to walk the walk instead of just talking the talk. For this we give heartfelt thanks.

You have blessed this work so much this past quarter, along with Selah and two anniversary benefits in Michigan, that we are bursting to tell you we will be returning to our beloved people in Congo on January 30. Thank you for purchasing many Dream Packages for our staff in response to the November newsletter. Some of you gave through Paypal in December on our website at www.labanministries.org. Still others specified giving through the credit card opportunities listed on our new anniversary response envelope. Because of your faithfulness to God and your concern for the poor in Congo, we ended 2008 in the black! Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

2009 brings a slight change for Laban. We will keep our Dearborn post office box indefinitely but will also be receiving mail in Nashville, TN where we will be moving this week. Detroit has been our hub for many years and will continue to remain our hub because of so many supporters, friends, and family who remain here. Nashville will be a new place to cultivate the ministry. It will be a natural event to spend time in both places as our board is in Michigan as well as our planning committee.

While we are in Congo, our daughter-in-law, Molly, who resides in MI, will handle the mail and banking. So you will be receiving newsletters and envelopes with the Dearborn address on them. Frequent contact with Molly will allow us to keep updated on the financial status while we are away until we return to the States in early April.

At this point, a supporter in California has pledged money for Jim's ticket, and funds for Nancy's ticket are in the bank. Please pray with us for funds in hand to take. There is need for fuel for evangelism, fuel for work on the station and fuel for traveling long distances to get supplies, (no Home Depot down the street, you know). We either take the stuff we need from America, or purchase it in Kinshasa and ship it over 400 miles into the Interior via Mission Aviation Fellowship, or send the truck

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60 miles into Kikwit to get the goods. The costs involved are the same for missionaries as they are for anyone else in Congo. All kinds of needs await us at the mission. This is no small endeavor. It is a thriving, mushrooming, vibrant organism God has raised up and maintained for more than 70 years now.

And so with hearts brimming over with gratitude and relief, we bless the Lord with you as you have partnered so well with us once again in 2008. Don't forget to check out our blog at labanministries.blogspot.com. We covet your prayers while we are gone. How many times we have experienced deliverance through your intercession. God bless you as you and make His face to shine upon you.

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