

# LABAN MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

## February 2018

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Dear Friends,

Four years ago this month, Jim and I traveled to Congo to once again do life with our staff for several weeks. God gives us great times together meeting with the Bible school students through teaching sessions, evaluating their expectations, and realities of living away from their families, dorm life, and their academic progress, etc. We are always overwhelmed with the prices they pay to learn and come to absolutely treasure the Word of God.

We discuss Radio Glory: its needs, its outreach, its programming, its staffing. This amazing tool the Lord has miraculously provided and maintained is mind blowing. There, its 300' tower stands in the middle of the bush of our part of Africa, broadcasting the hope of the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ faithfully and effectively. I'm sure we'll review evangelism's need for a new generator, new speakers, new sound equipment, new mics, extension cords, and what evangelism's outreach will look like in 2019. In fact, as we speak, they are preparing for a campaign for this weekend!

The Women's Literacy School is such a joy to behold. Their beaming faces shine with a new radiance of dignity, worth, joy, and freshly-found confidence as they have been resurrected from the pit of ignorance, despair, shame, and darkness of illiteracy. They can now read the BIBLE, write their names, sew for their children and themselves, make pancakes, and have a little business on the side of selling donut holes to passers-by to help buy uniforms, notebooks, pens, and pencils for their children and make a stab at paying their tuition. They can now proudly read notes sent home from their children's teachers instead of depending on their children to read them. They can now experience deeper hope for transformation in their little girls' or boys' lives as they are able to read bedtime stories about the great heroes of the faith to them.

The dispensary will be another point of discussion. We usually have a newborn to greet. Marvina and Elise are wonderful midwives, and Pastor Kilasi faithfully carries on as lab tech.

All in all, it is a great time of blessing, learning, satisfaction, eye opening, and sometimes heartbreak. It is ALWAYS worth the packing, the waiting on the Lord to provide, the pleading that He will go before us or we cannot go, type of praying. Hearing the news awaiting us at Nkara whether good or hard to hear, the long days jam-packed because of never-ending needs or people traveling for miles to see us. The pesky, would-be "tax collectors" who hear we are in town and see what they can try to demand from us, due to no real income from their state job yet having to somehow pay their bills. The "other world" prayer life of our staff as they depend on God for everything, including the very breath they breathe, and to gaze into the faces of these incredible men and women under the direction of Pastor Mboma. Some are giants of the faith. They are tenacious, transparent, hard working, full of faith, patient in tribulation, and fervent in hope, walking a lengthy stride of long-suffering and gratitude. Needless to say, we love our people.

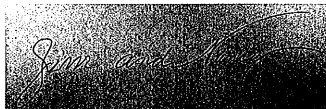
Well, it's been 4 years since we have experienced any of the above. Jim's diagnosis of leukemia in 2015 kept us away for more than a year. Two attempts have been made since 2017 to get back, but Ebola and

civil unrest have been deterrents. The recently elected president transitioned with surprising ease, considering the fact that the last 55 years have seen only 2 presidential administrations, and there is only so much we can do over the phone. We long to return. It's time to return. Will you help us return?

A spring trip is in the making. It will be a short one. Only Jim and I will be traveling. We will stay in Kinshasa at the Methodist/Presbyterian Hostel. Eight members of our staff will travel to meet with us for our time there in the capital city. This will cut the cost of a flight into the interior. It will also give a much needed break for them as well, to get out of Nkara and away from the stress of the multiple pressures they face on a day-to-day basis.

Join us in prayer, please. Some of you who requested to be on our mailing list after attending a Selah concert over the past two years—will you consider a gift towards this trip? And others, be a part of our going. We are an extension of you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your incredible support every time we go. We couldn't do what we do without you. You are such a vital link to shining the eternal light of the Gospel to the lost in Congo!

-Servants of Christ  
Jim & Nancy



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