

# Letter from John & Ann Leese in Africa

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you all from Lubumbashi where it is a pleasant 26° in my office! We know that you will be receiving lots of newsletters at this time, so I'll (try to) be brief!

## SEMINARS:

The series of week long seminars we took in local churches went really well. Some of the teaching was very new for the churches, but they all responded well. Let me just mention one: They were in the habit of spending twenty to thirty minutes casting out demons & 'binding Satan'. Based on the fact that Acts & the Epistles mention the devil very little, (in Acts only twice!) I encouraged them rather to uplift Jesus. After the Seminar had finished the church leaders held a meeting to decide what to do the coming Sunday. They chose to uplift Jesus rather than to concentrate on the Devil. The result was that they experienced a move of the Holy Spirit. We would have loved to have been there! The Leaders, who were overjoyed, came to tell us what had happened afterwards! We thank God for His faithfulness & you, for your prayers.

## ISTELU:

The term ended on a high note for the students. The courses had gone well. John is half way through Galatians; Ann is progressing well with her Counselling course. Mwamba, the professor who was in a very serious car accident, has finished his course on the Doctrine of God and is well into his course on Greek. He went into hospital last week to have a pin removed from his leg. He's relieved to be making good progress. The only sad note is that the Director, pastor Kalenga is ill again. He had a slight cut on his little toe that has turned into a major problem. Please pray for him. He spends most of the day in bed and is eating very little. Ann goes to see him twice daily and is concerned.

## CHRISTMAS COMES EARLY:

Having heard that the container from Preston had arrived in Ndola, Zambia, we hurriedly arranged to drive down to the Ramsey's for the weekend of the 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> December. Crossing from the Congo to Zambia went well. An 'angel' (a young Congolese man called Antoine) guided us through all the formalities in just under an hour! On the way back with the Toyota Jeep loaded with our boxes & two metal trunks, we called Antoine as arranged, and he was waiting for us at the border. It soon became evident that our 'angel' had been drinking! After a small 'confrontation' between John & Antoine, all was arranged and we passed through the border back into the Congo in 45 minutes. Some parts of the road were very bad, but all went well & we arrived back home by 2.30 pm. John drove all the way and though his leg was a bit stiff afterwards he had no problems. It was like early Christmas opening all the boxes we had packed last June in Luxembourg! Nothing was broken. We praise the Lord for His faithfulness.

## VEHICLE AND INTERNET:

After much thought, we have bought the Nissan Primera from the Mission. It is not ideal for the Congolese roads, but it's fine for going into town and to local churches. If need be, we can hire the mission Toyota when travelling further a field.

The Internet connection has been a real problem, but that too has now been solved. We have bought a GPS modem (it works like a mobile phone) so we are connected! We can send & receive e-mails easily, but sending & receiving photos is difficult. We are pleased to have easy contact with many of you again.

## CHRISTMAS:

It is difficult to think that it is Christmas when it's so warm & sunny, but we are looking forward to our first Congolese Christmas. We are not sure yet what will be happening, but we aim to make Christ the centre of all that we do.

We trust that you too will have a great Christmas and that whether you are alone or with family, that His presence will be a great source of blessing for you.

This has been a year of changes for us. We had one or two false starts, yet here we are, settled in Lubumbashi, in good health & rejoicing in His goodness! Thank you for your support, e-mails, 'phone calls, letters and most all, your prayers. We are looking for great things in 2008!

God bless you all richly.

In Him,

John & Ann