

Dear Brother Bo and members of Camp Creek Baptist Church,

It was a real joy to talk and laugh with you the other day on the phone! Some of our fondest missionary travels found us at Camp Creek and enjoying the mission conferences and wonderful fellowship! We want to take this time to say another thank you for your faithful and generous financial support for all these years. How blessed we are to be part of your ministry! I am at my oldest son's house using his computer as I promised to get a letter off in the next few days to Brother Bo (my adopted son) for many years now!

You always hear the saying, "when it rains, it pours!" This year has been a very difficult one for us. It all began when Arnold went to the pain clinic to get injections in his hip for pain in his sciatic nerve. The injections deadened his leg and when he got up in the middle of the night, he fell and hit his mouth on the end table by the bed. By the time I got to him, he, as well as the floor was covered in blood. We went to emergency and he had several stitches in his mouth. A week later, Arnold was admitted to the hospital with severe pneumonia and he stayed there for five days. He took antibiotics for three months and nothing could get rid of his cough. A week after he got out of the hospital, Arnold's brother passed away so unexpectedly and so tragically! You can imagine how this affected Arnold as he was still so weak and sick from the pneumonia!

A week later we heard that our pastor's wife in Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast had passed away. In Africa, they never tell you why the person passed away or what sickness they had. They usually say it was a sickness in their liver! Now their four children will have to stay in the orphanage as this pastor's wife was very active in taking care of the orphans on a daily basis. She will be missed! Hold on Brother Bo, we aren't finished with the bad news yet! Arnold's back pain has gotten to the point that he can hardly walk. The pain in his leg and back never lets up! As a result of that, he will be having back surgery this next Wednesday (May 9). Please pray for him as we are asking for a successful surgery which will take away the pain!

In spite of all these things going on in our lives, our eyes are on Jesus and we know that He will take care of us and that He is in complete control! Like a friend told me last night--just more to write in my book! I love the song, "I've Been Through Enough To Know He'll Be Enough For Me!"

We now have 32 orphans in Yamoussoukro. We had asked for money in our last newsletter to build on to a rented building to have more room for our orphans. Since then the Lord has shown us that it will be better to buy our own land and build an orphanage that will belong to us. The owners of the rented building keep harassing us and threatening to make us leave if we don't give

more rent money. We just received a letter and pictures from our pastor there and they have found some land to buy but we have to make sure the owner's papers are legitimate before we send money over there. Please help us pray about this! Our hearts are so burdened for our orphans and widows who don't even have the basics of life. We just received a letter telling us how they need so many things that we take for granted. Like beds! Our hearts are counting the days until they can have their own orphanage and each one have a bunk bed with a mattress!

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and pray about the great need we have in Ivory Coast! We keep in constant contact with our pastors and the Lord knows that our hearts will always be with our people there! Thank you for giving! Thank you for sharing all these years! Thank you for loving us and standing with us as you do!

God bless each of you. We love you!

Arnold and Linda Skelton