

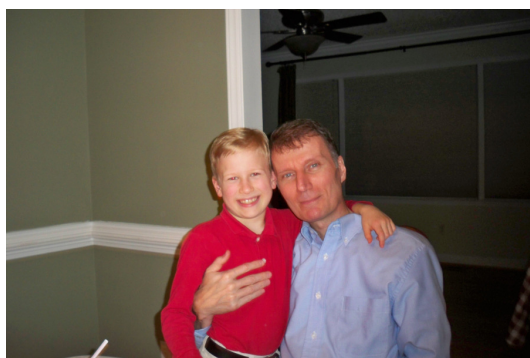


December Update

Greetings from North Carolina in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! We're pleased to share with you what the Lord has been doing in our lives and ministry.



Thanksgiving Dinner 2017



Joseph and Len at Thanksgiving

Family: In November we celebrated Thanksgiving with a great feast that we began and ended by giving thanks to God for His many blessings in our lives.

We also enjoyed peak foliage here in North Carolina, which you can see a bit of in our photos at the link below.

Len continues to go through physical therapy for his knee, and has experienced a measure of healing as the level of pain and the problems with the knee have diminished but still not disappeared. Thanks for your prayers for him.

At the end of November, the Lord blessed Faith with a new, acoustic guitar, which she has since been learning to play (photo below). She has been diligent to practice playing it regularly and is doing very well with it. In fact, she can already play one worship song on it. Pray that she will become skilled on the stringed instrument for worship.

Christopher is also continuing to learn to play the keyboard. If anyone has a keyboard-lesson DVD that uses worship music to teach how to play the keyboard, and you would be willing to let him borrow it, please let us know.

Ministry: As we continue to administer our [discipleship training school](#) (DTS), we'd like to update you on the good things that God is doing with it. Currently we have eleven disciples in six nations including Nigeria, Kenya, United Kingdom,

Mali, Liberia, and Rwanda, four of those people have just enrolled for the current new quarter that began on December 1st.

One of our new students is Nwaburu Emeka Christian from Nigeria, who is twenty years old. You can call him Christian. He was raised in a Christian family and got saved three years ago during an altar call at a service. He contacted Len in November to say, "I want to be enrolled in your training school, Sir." So Len suggested he pray about it first, and then submit an application if he felt led by the Lord to do so.

He replied: "Thank you, Sir. I have been praying about this Sir, long before a friend told me about DTS. Getting to know about DTS is on its own an answer to my prayers. I have prayed and I am sure that its God's will for me to join DTS. I pray my application is accepted, Sir." He states that his reason for enrolling is "So that I can grow in Christ and be better equipped to lead others to Christ and to render acceptable service to God."

Later after he was accepted into the DTS he wrote: "Its an honour to learn from you, Sir. Thank you for accepting me into DTS. I pray that God gives me the grace I need not only to understand but to practice His Word, so that I will become that 'Approved worker' in His Vineyard."

We also enrolled another student from Nigeria, who is an eighteen-year old female named Blessing. She described her 2015 salvation experience this way:

"During my secondary school days, I did attend summer lessons, and my teacher was a pastor . So on one of my lesson days, we had a discussion about me and that created an avenue. He presented the good news to me, not that it was the first time I heard it, but I guess it was presented in a different way, or God had decided that was my turn." Praise the Lord.

She has had a strong desire to enroll in the DTS, because it will provide her with the discipleship training she needs and fosters daily Bible study and fellowship. We look forward to the privilege of assisting her with her training.



Christian in Nigeria



Faith on her guitar



Stephen in Nigeria

Another new student has enrolled in our DTS in Rwanda, Africa. His name is André Hakizimana, a forty-eight year old pastor. In his application, he gave a wonderful testimony of his conversion to Christ in 2001. He said:

"Before I received Jesus as my Savior, I was a very [big] sinner, tired. I had not the hope. After I met a servant of God, he preached to me in John 1:12 and Apoc. (Revelation) 3:20. I trusted to receive Jesus as my King and my Savior. I called Jesus to come in my heart to guide me. Since that date I am feeling well in my life, filled with the joy and hope of my future life, because I have eternal life."

He stated, "I want to enroll in the DTS, because I need to have a knowledge enough to proclaim the good news all over the world." Praise the Lord for this brother's salvation, as well as his desire to be trained for worldwide gospel ministry and the privilege to help fulfill that need for him. We believe that by God's grace he will go forth to multiply disciples of Jesus Christ.

In our last newsletter, we mistakenly reported that one of our new students in Nigeria, whose name is Stephen Ayodele Benjamin, was about to complete a degree in Mathematics. Len caught the error later, as that information is true of a prospective student who has not yet enrolled. The fact is that Stephen already earned his degree ten years ago in 2007, which was in Agricultural Economics. We just want to make that correction for the record.

We mentioned to you a few months ago that Deji in Nigeria, who was our first DTS student and has been training with us since September 2015, was hoping to get married to his fiancée Hannah on December 2. For those of you who were wondering, he has not yet managed to do so. Deji who has a Master's degree in Agriculture is also searching for a job. Would you join us in praying Deji and Hannah will be able to get married soon and that he would find a good job?

As you know, we have six DTS students in Nigeria, where the persecution level there is classified as "very high" by . And Nigeria ranks close to the top of the watch list for persecuted countries, ranking at number 12 on the [global watch list of Open Door USA](#) with number 1 being North Korea (extreme persecution). I'm sure you are all aware of our friend, brother [Michael Sambo's angelic escape from Boko Haram terrorists](#), which I have written about previously. The current situation in Nigeria is dire. About half of the 170 million people in Nigeria are Muslim, and the Christians are experiencing intense persecution from their Muslim neighbors. They are victims of all kinds of pranks, gimmicks and evil atrocities committed against Christians and humanity by them. For more information on persecution in Nigeria and how to pray, please see [this link](#).

Regarding persecution, one of our DTS students lives in Mali, which is a dark, vast, spiritual wasteland with over thirteen million people in sixty-two people groups, sixty percent of which are unreached with the gospel, according to [Operation World](#). The country is almost entirely Muslim and there very few

Christians there. Only 0.7 percent of the population are evangelicals. Our DTS student is being a witness for Christ there in the capital. The student's name and photo are withheld for security reasons. Please pray the Lord will use her for His glory and make her a light.

Len sent out his monthly edition of [Old News That's Still Fresh](#) in December to pastors, elders, and laborers in the harvest in the US, Europe, Australia, Africa, and Southeast Asia.

A sister named Leanne in England contacted us for help in December, and we were able to minister to her through prayer and counsel. She replied, "Dear Len, Thank you so much for replying so quickly and for your heartfelt words. What you've said has been really comforting and we are both really grateful...I also want to say that I am enjoying reading your blogs. I found them hard hitting at first, but it has made me realize that I need to be more obedient and God deserves more than I am giving Him. Yours with thanks."

We were also able to refer her to a pastor in England who serves on our board, Olugbenga Oladejo, who offered to further assist her. Praise the Lord! Please pray that the Lord would deliver her from evil, along with her husband Paul and son Seb.

A wonderful door of opportunity has opened for Len to serve short-term overseas, which we believe is from the Lord. We are praying for the financial provision for it and the Lord's timing, as well as the Lord's message when he goes there, and the demonstration of the Spirit's power. We would so appreciate it if you would join us in prayer for this matter.

Although we are not based overseas any more, we are still missionaries and still need your financial and prayer support of our ministry. Please pray and ask the Father if He would have you give.

"Not to us, O Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness." (Ps 115:1)

In closing, we have much to praise God for, and many opportunities for you to join us in prayer.

Praise the Lord with us for the many answers to prayer:

1. For enabling us to celebrate Thanksgiving together.
2. For blessing Faith with a new guitar and helping her begin to learn to play it.
3. For the progress with Len's knee.
4. For our latest DTS enrollees, Christian, Blessing, and Andre'.
5. For the opportunity to assist each of our students in becoming disciples of Christ and fulfilling their callings.

6. For the Lord's leading, guidance, and help administering the Doulos Training School (DTS), and for the progress the students are making.
7. For the lives being touched for Christ around the world through our writing ministry.
8. For the words of encouragement we have received from the people being touched.
9. For the open door of ministry opportunity overseas.

Next steps and prayer needs:

1. For the Lord to heal Len's knee and sciatic pain.
2. For the Lord to supernaturally anoint Faith to play the guitar skillfully in worship, and Christopher with the keyboard.
3. For the Lord to assist us with the administration of the Doulos Training School (DTS), as well as develop through it many disciples who multiply disciples.
4. For the Lord to increase the enrollment in our DTS according to His will.
5. For the Lord to help Christian, Blessing, and Andre' as they embark on their three-year journey in our DTS. Pray that the Lord would use our lives and training to meet and exceed the expectations they have for the DTS.
6. For the Lord to help all of our DTS students to find LTG partners (another Christian to meet with weekly for discipleship in a Life Transformation Group).
7. For the Lord to deliver Leanne, Paul, and Seb in England from evil.
8. For the Lord to fulfill His purposes for us and our ministry.
9. For the Lord to send His angels with Len's written messages to those who need them, and for an open heaven over them when they receive his messages.
10. For the Lord to move mountains to raise up new faith partners, including those who would sponsor our students, and for Him to provide for all our needs -- not only ours personally, but also those of the ministry -- as He releases a financial miracle.
11. For the Lord to guide and provide for Len to walk through the open door for ministry overseas.

Thank you so much for your partnership in this ministry.

with love from all of us,

The Lacroixs

There are two ways to donate to Doulos Missions International. You may either send a check or money order by mail to:

**Doulos Missions International
PO Box 5526
Manchester, NH 03108-5526**