



# ACTS MINISTRY – Burkina Faso

“Providing love and hope for mother and child”

## News from Burkina Aug2013

### ACTS publishing vision

Literature is an integral part of ACTS Ministry for the Burkinabé people. Literature written in local languages impacts readers because it addresses culturally appropriate current issues.

With the prompting of the Lord in 1992, Joanna Ilboudo started her publishing adventure by launching a Christian magazine for general readership called *Contact*. When the work of ACTS began among orphans ACTS adjusted the content and changed the name of the magazine to *Contact, Jr.*



She continued writing, training editors and writers and producing various types of literature alongside her work as Executive Director of the only Christian radio station in Burkina Faso.

A publishing program was part of the vision of ACTS Ministry when it was officially begun in 2005. Ignorance is one of the root causes of poverty. Books, pamphlets, flyers and magazines help to bring knowledge to the poor.

You may say, “But Burkina Faso has the worst literacy rate in the world.” This is true, but one magazine, book or pamphlet may be read aloud to family members who cannot read and thus the message of hope in Christ reaches multitudes.

### Books address local issues

Books to supplement ACTS school curriculum and literacy projects for women and students help them become successful in their studies.

Women’s groups receive pamphlets on prevention of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other common diseases. Medical cards show women how to care for children with the severe fevers that accompany malaria or measles.

Several books target the Christian population where few books in French or the local languages exist that address common Christian topics.

Other literature addresses issues that are common to the culture of Burkina Faso. A short story about the plight of street children caught in the clutches of unscrupulous men has placed this problem into discussion among educational and social groups. This story has been produced into a drama for TV. This will bring an awareness of the problem to those in leadership.

In some areas more than 70% of women have been forced to suffer the mental, physical and emotional trauma of FGM (female circumcision). A short story addressing the evils of this practice was written and a drama for TV is planned.

Currently 20 professional women who have never been involved in a writing project, have received training and are writing about their experiences in leadership. This group found their voice through writing. This is a very rewarding publishing project.

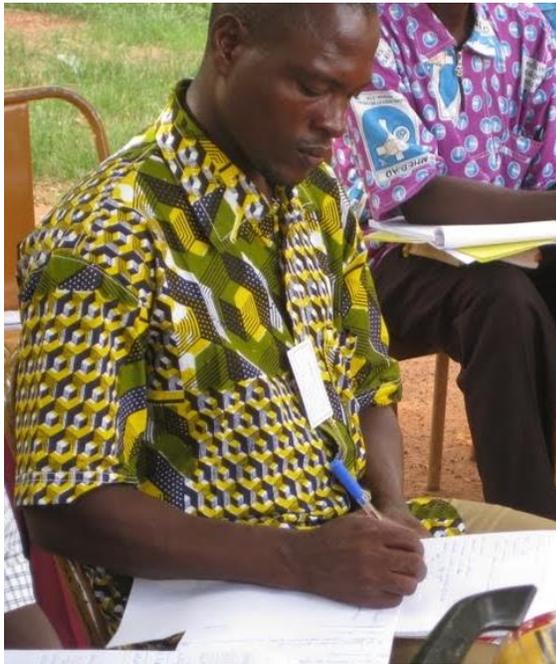
### Favor in the Christian community

Joanna Ilboudo’s work as writer, editor, publisher and trainer was recognized by the members of the Assembly of God executive leadership team. In May 2013, the Assembly of God magazine *Flame* was struggling to find the



right direction. The Assembly of God leadership contacted Joanna to re-launch *Flame* magazine.

Joanna was asked to revive the magazine in a way that it would be appealing to today's Burkinabé readers. Joanna wanted to include news relevant to all citizens of Burkina Faso so she gathered together representatives from all regions of the country. In July 2013, 46 representatives met for five days of training and equipping.



To become successful writers they received principles to effective and professional writing. As the president's representative for the Assembly of God, Dr. Etienne Zongo related that their mission is to "Write to inform and save lives. Write to inform and edify Christians so that the church will increase."

Members were excited to hear that the national magazine, *Flame*, would be re-launched as a more effective means of outreach to the population of Burkina Faso.

### **ACTS promotes women's advocacy**

Financial assistance from Tyndale House Foundation has given ACTS an opportunity to publish literature and train women in the rural setting.



Women can make a difference in the governance of the country. As Esther in the Bible, it is time for women in Burkina and elsewhere to step into their leadership roles to bring positive change to society.

### **Prayer requests**

- For Christian men and women to receive courage to write material that introduces Jesus Christ to the lost.
- For new areas of distribution to open for ACTS literature

### **Praise**

- Thank the Lord for those willing to assist ACTS with publishing Christian materials
- Thank the Lord for his favor upon our efforts

### **Thank you**

We are grateful for you. Thank you for your prayers and gifts for the work of ACTS in Burkina Faso.

In Him,

*Joanna Ilboudo Sharyl J. Sieh*

Executive Director,  
Joanna Ilboudo

US President,  
Sharyl J. Sieh

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All gifts are tax deductible.  
In Burkina Faso ACTS Ministry is a registered NGO.

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