



ACTS MINISTRY – Burkina Faso

“Providing love and hope for mother and child”

News from Burkina Jan 2013

This year students at the ACTS schools will focus on the following verses. May this verse also encourage you during the New Year!

“God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble... The LORD of Heaven's Armies is here among us; the God of Israel is our fortress.” Psalm 46:1 and 7

ACTS Executive Director Joanna Ilboudo, tells about a father who came to see her October 2, the first day of school.

At the beginning of the school I witnessed something I've never seen before. A father whose sons, Ishmael and Xavier, were not yet enrolled in class this year came to my office. He said he had no money to pay the school fees so he sold his moto [small motorcycle], but found that it was still not enough.

He became very sad as he explained that he lost his job and now without a moto he could not travel to find work.

His wife no longer had cotton thread to sell to seamstresses in the village because all the cotton grown in Burkina Faso was exported to China.

The family was under great stress from the lack of finances. The father came to negotiate for the sons and as he was explaining the situation, he burst in tears.

I was very moved because women plead for their children to stay in school, but men never show emotion. This was the first time I'd ever seen a man cry in public.

It was then that I discovered the family had a third son, Nestor, who was old enough for primary school, but the mom and dad decided to leave him home. The father said, “This one can wait another year or two until the eldest son can continue his studies.”

The father was told to pay what he was able towards the school fees. His three sons are in school today only because you give to the work of ACTS. Your gifts allow orphans to attend school at no cost and assist a few students who cannot pay the entire fee.

This father was unskilled but understood the importance of a good education for his sons. Not only will his sons receive a good education, they will also learn how much Jesus loves them. They will be given vitamin-enriched meals every day at lunch. Ishmael, Xavier and Nestor will grow strong physically, mentally and spiritually.



Students who attend ACTS schools receive spiritual training for life, a good education, a vitamin-enriched lunch and medical treatment.

We are pleased to inform you that the school year began with 330 children in primary school; 185 in secondary and 25 for professional training.

Pray for families

Pray for village families who have suffered through two years of drought and crop failures. Pray that the pressures of life cause them to seek the Lord. Continue to pray for the evangelism and prayer teams from the ACTS church, that are sent regularly to village homes.

Literacy centers



Village women are excited about the opportunity to learn how to read and write.

In villages literacy among women is very low. In some rural areas only 15.5% of the women can read and write.

New literacy centers are being set up for women in several villages. Church pastors and leaders will host the literacy centers for their villages. Each class was projected to have 25 to 30 learners who would promise to teach others after they successfully finish the three-year program.

At the end of the program, women will be eligible to take the national literacy exam. When they successfully pass the exam, they are given the same certificate that students receive as they graduate from primary school classes. Women will

then be able to legally vote, own property and launch a business.

Women in the village of Boussé are enthusiastic about being able to learn how to read. In one church 65 people are eager to be involved in the literacy program. This church will have two classes to accommodate the women who wish to enroll.

In the village of Ouisga, far north of Ouagadougou, Pastor Denis gave this testimony about the literacy classes in his church:

“Through literacy class many young people in the village have come to know the Lord. These young people gave their lives to the Lord and then brought their mothers to the Lord as well. The church is now full with young people. I am thankful to God for the literacy class we have here in the village. It is a way to reach villagers who had never been to church before.”

We are able to serve orphans and students, men and women here in Burkina, because you are praying and supporting us.

Blessings to you

May the Lord bless you home with peace and grace as we celebrate the birth of our Savior and begin the New Year!

*“May the Lord bless you
and protect you.
May the Lord smile on you
and be gracious to you.
May the Lord show you his favor
and give you his peace”.*

Thank you very much for your faithful support!
Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

Yours sincerely,

Joanna Ilboudo Sharyl J. Sieh

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In Burkina Faso ACTS Ministry is a registered NGO.

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