



# ACTS MINISTRY – Burkina Faso

*“Providing love and hope for mother and child”*

## News from Burkina June 2013

### God’s favor

*“Joyful are those who listen to me, watching for me daily at my gates, waiting for me outside my home! For whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from the LORD.”* Proverbs 8:34-35.

It is our joy to write this special report on the latest results of the sports evangelism program. This year we called it **“The Cup of Solidarity and Peace!”** More families attended the final tournament and heard about the gospel than ever before.

The fourth annual football (soccer) tournament was organized for children from 35 villages around the ACTS Center. This tournament gives an opportunity for ACTS to speak into the children’s lives.



ACTS College Ezra team

Along with football training, ACTS staff provides six weeks of classes for participants on various topics. Classes focus on biblical foundations such as peace in relationships, prevention of HIV/AIDS, children’s rights and protection of the environment.

ACTS gave two cups for winners of this year’s tournaments due to the increase of schools wishing to enter the program of classes followed by a tournament. One prize was given to secondary school students and one was for primary students.

The event has become a favorite for students and adults from the surrounding communities. Attending the event were local authorities of the commune of Komsilga, residents of the village of Saonré and 30 or so other villages.

The sports evangelism tournaments are of great interest to the community and provide a vehicle for the gospel to be made alive in the hearts and minds of the people.

Not only the event has grown in favor, but it also gives satisfaction to people. A representative from the village of Saonré said: *“It is rare to see people laugh as you see them laugh today. It is because coming together for football is giving joy to the people.”*

This year ACTS primary school *Ecole Solidarity* and secondary school *College Ezra*, made it to the finals. The primary school won the cup but the secondary school came in second.



Joanna speaking to the crowd after College Ezra came in second in the tournament

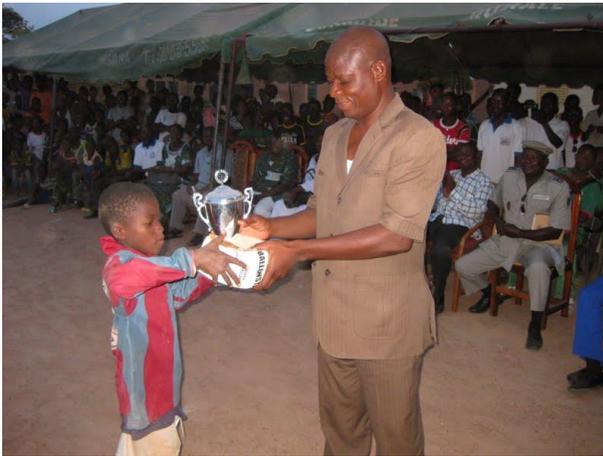
When our secondary school lost, people from Saonré were not happy and began to complain with the referee saying he cheated for the other secondary school called Saint Martin.

This gave Joanna an opportunity to talk about unity and peace. The purpose of the tournament is not for ACTS school to win the cup, but to promote

peace throughout the region just as we teach it to the children. **“Solidarity and peace”** was the theme this year.

Instructors from the other schools have asked ACTS to come to their schools and teach the same courses to all their students! What an opportunity this is for the Kingdom of God.

With Islamism growing in West African countries, it is important to us to emphasize the gospel of peace among young people who are easily carried away by Islamists. So the real “prize” of the tournament was learning more about the character of Jesus Christ.



Mayor of Komsilga gave the first place award to ACTS Solidarity team captain

We are thankful to God for giving us favor among the people and allowing us to share His peace with others in the small but meaningful way.

We are grateful to Tear Fund UK and to the friends from Christ Church in Bournemouth who provided funding for this event. We pray the Lord blessing upon them and also on our future partnership.



Scene from the match for secondary school first place

### Prayer needed

- For villagers who are suffering lack and have need of food and other necessities
- For ACTS to be able to acquire additional secondary school classrooms so that there will be room for the increased number of graduating primary students
- For an end to the violence in countries in West Africa and for Burkina Faso to continue to be at peace

### Praise given

- For the villagers who have found salvation in Christ and are faithful in their attendance at church and discipleship classes
- For donors who have helped provide funding for ACTS sports evangelism program
- For protection the Lord gives our orphans over diseases

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

In joy,

*Joanna Ilboudo Sharyl J. Sieh*

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In Burkina Faso ACTS Ministry is a registered NGO.

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