



# ACTS MINISTRY – Burkina Faso

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

## News from Burkina April 2014

**A male and female of each kind entered, just as God had commanded Noah. Then the Lord closed the door behind them. Gen 7:16**

There is a new film at the theaters concerning the flood in the time of Noah. The film is controversial, but we can learn from the story of Noah as written in the Bible.

Noah believed God and was faithful to tell others about Him while constructing the arc. He did all that God commanded. But when the time was right, God was the only one who could shut the door and keep Noah, his family and the animals safe from the judgment pronounced on sinners.



At the ACTS Hope Center, we tell orphans and students about Jesus who loves them and do all within our power to keep them safe and secure. Our classrooms, training facility, storerooms, medical center and church were without secure walls. Villagers used our compounds as shortcuts from their homes to the village well or to the main road.

We realized that the supplies and equipment were a temptation for thieves and that the students had no place of safety in case of unrest. When famine comes to villagers, they will sometimes do anything to survive. ACTS needed to build walls.

ACTS donors gave funds designated for the construction of walls. We were able to begin strengthening and completing the walls around the Hope Center where the orphans sleep at night.



Students from the vocational training helped make bricks of cement and mud for the walls. Then they helped put the bricks in place to form the sturdy walls.

We have used our strength and skill to build the wall, now we leave the rest to God. He is the One who keeps our orphans and staff safe. All we have is dedicated for His work, so we expect Him to watch over our supplies and equipment.

Pastor David who is in charge of our spiritual program says, *“Now we have a compound and we can say that it is secure in the Lord. People will no longer be able to casually pass through and look at us.”*



Students involved in our welding program planned and welded the new gate for the Hope Center. The

old gate failed and they needed to think of a new design. The welding students were excited to be part of the rebuilding program.

Additional funding is needed to complete the walls around the secondary school and construct gates for that compound. If you would like to contribute towards this project, please let us know.

**Empowering widows**

To their delight, widows and other women from the rural commune of Komsilga enrolled in the ACTS women’s program, found their efforts to be successful. Some women who graduated from our literacy and business classes have begun income generating activities.

These are women such as Justine. (She is the widow who volunteered to care for Wendingoudi, an infant found in the dump a few years ago.)



Justine understood the importance of literacy and obtaining skills necessary to provide an income for herself and Wendingoudi. She began weaving cloth to make money to buy necessities.

Recently she came to the ACTS office and told President Joanna Ilboudo, *“With the money I received from ACTS I was able to buy half a bag of*

*yarn to start weaving. After selling the material I produced, I bought a whole bag of yarn.”*

After hearing that, Joanna gave her advice on how to keep producing, saving and buying more yarn so that she would not need to depend on others. With her determination to persevere, Justine is a living testimony for women struggling to get out of the pit of poverty.

**Pray for the Lord’s protection**

April is the hottest month for Burkina Faso as daytime temperatures regularly reach 108. There is no relief from the heat and dust until rains come later in the year. Meningitis is prevalent in some areas during this hot time. Thankfully, none of our orphans, students, widows or staff have contracted this deadly disease. Please pray for the Lord to sustain us all and keep us free from meningitis and other life-threatening diseases.

**Peace and stability**



Peace and stability are important for our work to continue. We would like you to join us in praying for Burkina Faso,

its leaders and the stability of the region.

A Burkinabé journalist recently wrote, “The existing and apparent calm in the country does not mean peace and stability; waters can be calm on the surface and yet have great turmoil in the deep below.”

We are asking God to do what only he can do...work on the hearts of men to bring peace.

Thank you for being faithful and praying.

*Joanna Ilboudo Sharyl J. Sieh*

President,  
Joanna Ilboudo

US President,  
Sharyl J. Sieh

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