



# ACTS MINISTRY – Burkina Faso

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

## News from Burkina Jan 2014

### We give thanks to you and our good God for...

- Food for the orphans and school children.
- Spiritual growth of students at the ACTS schools.
- Health and safety for the orphans.
- Salvations of orphans and students.
- Pastor David and his wife to watch over the orphans.
- Dr. Ousmane, a full-time physician at Ellet
- Building additional classrooms and a new cook house.
- The ability to purchase materials for use in vocational projects.



Children joyfully sang at the Christmas Eve service.

Your generosity has accomplished much in Burkina Faso for orphans and widows.

When we take your gifts to those who need them, they thank God. Two good things will result from your ministry of giving: the needs of the orphans at the ACTS Center are met and they will joyfully express their thanks to God. (Based on 2 Corinthians 9:17-18)

### Christmas and New Year in Burkina Faso

You may be wondering how the holidays were celebrated in Burkina Faso.

Both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve are celebrated at church with a long service lasting well into the early morning hours. Choirs representing various ages sing Christmas hymns with joyful exuberance to the beat of African drums. Songs are sung in French, Mooré and English. After a message, prayers of praise and thanksgiving are given to God.

A meal contributed by church families is shared by all at church. A week before Christmas ACTS distributed food to widows so they would not be hungry during the holidays.

In the capital city of Ouagadougou, friends and family bring gifts of food to each other's home before the holiday and then on Christmas or New Year's day, drop in from home to home for a short visit and eat. No one is turned away from the door. Every home is open for visitors.

The streets are jammed with vehicles, motos, bicycles and people walking. Everyone is going out to visit friends and relatives. And no invitation is necessary.

It is a time to celebrate relationships... first with the Lord Jesus and then with others. Everyone is light-hearted.

Very little emphasis is put on exchange of gifts. Some personal gifts are given by those who can afford the extra expense, but everyone shares their love and friendship.



There are some Christmas lights and a few artificial Christmas trees sold on the street, but not everyone has them. Young boys build a crèche in front of their home to welcome Jesus on Christmas Eve. The crèche is built of adobe just like their

own homes. Some are quite elaborate. Painted on the walls behind their crèche some have drawn angels or messages about the birth of the Savior.

New Year's celebrations from house to house can go on for weeks...depending on how many friends you wish to visit. More food is prepared and consumed during this time of the year. Prayers for a blessed new year go with their greetings.

### Spanish medical team visits ACTS



For the second year in a row, Misión EMSI, a mission based in Spain, came to provide medical assistance and training for Ellet staff on medical equipment.

More than 60 team members came with Misión EMSI from countries including Spain, England, Switzerland, the USA and Germany. They represented several partner agencies to bring training, physicians, evangelists and technicians to Burkina Faso.

Visiting mission personnel provided leadership training for our staff. And a group of young adults gave the boys and girls plenty of attention and held services just for children with lots of activity.



Misión EMSI executive staff came to the Ilboudo home on New Year's Day.

Medical doctors donated their holiday time for this mission trip to ACTS in Burkina Faso. We are so grateful for this partnership.

Villagers had appointments with medical personnel who carried out checkups, performed surgeries and prescribed medicines to the sick. They checked eyes and ears and performed general dentistry.

Members of this mission team alleviated suffering and brought joy to the poor. The Lord will reward them for their kindness.



### What lies ahead?

Despite difficulties, ACTS will continue to look for ways to ease the suffering of widows and the fatherless. ACTS pledges to seek justice, help the oppressed, defend the cause of orphans and fight for the rights of widows.

As always we are grateful that you pray and remember our work in Burkina Faso. Our staff, students and orphans remember you in prayer. To be certain that we never forget to thank God for you, your names are written above the doors of the buildings at the ACTS Center.

Joyous New Year to you,

*Joanna Ilboudo    Sharyl J. Sieh*

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US President,  
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All gifts given are tax-deductible.  
In Burkina Faso ACTS Ministry is a registered NGO.

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