



ACTS MINISTRY – Burkina Faso

“Providing love and hope for mother and child”

News from Burkina Nov 2014

Psalm 50:14-15

Make thankfulness your sacrifice to God..then call on me..I will rescue you and you will give me glory.

October – startup of school activities

We are thankful to God and thankful to his people who have helped ACTS Ministry during the past year. As we look forward to the next year’s activities, we can see the faithfulness of our God.



Joanna and Israel Ilboudo greeting incoming students

Burkina Faso is one of the poorest countries in the world, listed in the UN Development Index as 181 among 187 countries. Life expectancy is 56 years and the literacy rate is 15%. Yet, the Lord is blessing ACTS.

We are unique among missions in Burkina Faso. The annual budget of ACTS in Burkina Faso is \$386,000 and an amazing fact is that 23% of that budget is raised in Burkina Faso. We proclaim this is the favor of the Lord.

ACTS’ schools produce students who pass national exams with high marks. The next level of study are then opened to them.

Our vocational training graduates become productive members of the community, earning a

living for their families and becoming trainers of others.

ACTS medical center provides healthcare services that are unavailable at an affordable cost for the rural poor.

Widows become literate, learn how to open a business for income and how to raise children in a Christian environment. The next generation is learning that success comes from the Lord.

ACTS has 31 full-time and 11 part-time staff. We work hand-in-hand with 60 rural churches.

Partnering with ACTS bears fruit

In Burkina Faso, 80% of the population live in rural villages as subsistence farmers. They barely produce enough food in good years for their family to eat during the year. In unfavorable farming years hungry families succumb to malnutrition and sickness. Deaths rise especially among children.

Your financial gifts and prayers bring hope and a future to village boys and girls. Instead of following the traditional life of subsistence farming, young people are given a choice. ACTS vocational training gives young people new skills to earn a living. Here is a testimony from one of the orphans from ACTS’ clothing construction class.

Tiendrébéogo Blandine

Blandine is like many of the students at the ACTS Center. She comes from a family in the grip of poverty and lack. Poor students have no chance at education. Their future is closed almost before it has begun..

I have five brothers and our family struggles to survive with no father. Because my family is large, my mother cannot afford to send me to school. Someone told my family about the ACTS Center programs and although I was afraid, I went to ask them to help me. I told them I wanted the skills to earn enough money to help my family.



ACTS gave me a place to belong and grow. I entered the sewing class and feel good. My lessons are going well. My wish is to pass the first year course in sewing and then go on to the other levels. I have been given hope for my future.

I ask God to give me the knowledge and tools so I can someday own my own sewing workshop. My dream is to encourage other poor children to become seamstresses. I am very grateful to ACTS for giving me this possibility.



Scripture verses were read to students in the sewing classes to prepare them for the year.

ACTS shows boys and girls like Blandine that they have worth and potential.

- Their rescue from a poverty mindset comes when they learn about the love of the Savior Jesus Christ.
- Their lives are forever changed when they know they have worth.

- Their eyes are opened to future possibilities.

This is why we are thankful to God. This is why we are thankful to you.

New academic school year

The new school year is off to a great start. It began with prayer and thanksgiving for what the Lord is doing among students in Burkina Faso.

New classrooms were built to accommodate students from the community sent by local officials to ACTS' College Ezra secondary school. We are able to reach a growing number of boys and girls with the Gospel because of the Lord's favor.

The school population has grown so much that we can no longer hold assemblies in the church, Temple Evangélique El Roï. Joanna and Israel went to each class to welcome boys and girls, distribute scripture verses and pray for a successful academic year.



One of the newly built classrooms for secondary school students. On the opening day of class, Joanna and Israel Ilboudo greeted each student, told them what is expected of an excellent students, passed out scripture verses for the school year and prayed with each class for God's blessing on a successful year.

Container safely arrived at the ACTS Center!

After a six week journey from Tennessee, the 40' container safely arrived at the ACTS Center in Burkina Faso. The container was filled with food, a used 4-Runner, clothing, furniture and supplies for ACTS schools, all supplied by friends and partners.

Despite the protests this week and the crowds in the streets, the container and contents were delivered to our compound in the village. We thank the Lord for watching over the container so that nothing was lost, damaged or stolen.

The food sent will feed students for a short time. ACTS needs to send another container to provide food for the rest of the school year. We have the promise of donated food, but must raise the cost of shipping it to Burkina Faso. For shipping we will need \$12,000.

Update on Burkina Faso

During the past ten years, many days of prayer for the country of Burkina Faso have been organized country-wide by Joanna Ilboudo.

Intercessors have prayed for the Lord to cause righteousness and salvation to flow across the land.

We believe that the bloodless turn over that just took place in Burkina Faso was a direct result of those prayers. The former president left the country and his government officials were taken out of power. In the wake of these developments, prayers continue for righteousness to prevail over all the decisions yet to be made for the future of the country.

As this newsletter is being written, peace has returned to the streets, markets are open and the streets are busy with normal traffic. In the background, men and women are meeting to determine the direction of the country.

Burkina Faso has been an island of peace in the midst of West African turmoil. We pray that it will become a symbol of the grace of God in Africa.

Prayers of Thanksgiving

We would be amiss if we did not thank the Lord for his goodness. We thank the Lord for...

1. Protecting the people of Burkina Faso from violence and Ebola
2. ACTS' program growth and expansion into the community
3. A successful year for ACTS students and widows
4. ACTS dedicated staff
5. Salvations among students and villagers

6. Financial provision to send a container of food

Happy Thanksgiving to ACTS' US Partners

The time has flown by this year and the holidays are approaching.

We remember the words of Psalm 50 that began this newsletter. We are truly thankful and give glory to God for what he has done through you.

May the Lord's graciousness, joy and peace be upon you and your entire family.

Have a great Thanksgiving!



Orphans send their thanks to you.

Joanna Ilboudo *Sharyl J. Sieh*

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In Burkina Faso ACTS Ministry is a registered NGO.
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