



# ACTS MINISTRY – Burkina Faso

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

## News from Burkina Dec 09

### Merry Christmas to our partners!

We hope you will rejoice with us in the words of Jesus:

*“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”* John 10:10

### Jesus, the Restorer

Last September I (Joanna) was told by the doctors to take time to rest and do no work.

Since it was difficult to travel outside Burkina, I went to a Catholic convent to find rest and to pray for restoration.



Place to pray at the convent

There were no phones and I had plenty of time for studying the Bible and prayer. The nuns were used to being silent, but one

morning the Lord allowed me to meet one nun and we began a conversation. I soon learned about the troubles faced by the nun’s widowed sister. She and her three children were suffering after a dreadful time in their lives.

After finding profitable work in Côte d’Ivoire, the woman’s husband came back to Burkina with a considerable amount of money.

Other villagers, including his relatives, insisted that he should share his money with them. He refused and one night they killed him, took all his belongings and tortured his widow to keep her quiet.

She escaped to Ouagadougou with one child, leaving two others still in the village in the clutches of the so-called uncle.

One of her boys, by the name of Gauthier, ran away from the uncle and hitched a ride to the capital city, hoping to find his mother.

When the nun at the convent heard me talk about Hope Center, she pleaded that I help her nephew, Gauthier. I promised to hunt for the boy upon my return to Ouagadougou.



Gauthier in the vocational carpentry class on December 10

I was able to locate him. Today Gauthier is at the Hope Center taking training in carpentry. Recently when I was at the Center, I called Gauthier’s Aunt at the convent and let him talk with her.

She asked, “Are you happy at the Hope Center?”

He answered with a big laugh, “I am happy”.

“Have you found a good friend?” she asked.

“Yes, Jacques is my friend and I am very happy.”

Not only did the Lord restore me to strength, but in the process he also led me to a child who needed to be restored to wholeness. Jesus is so good!

### Jesus, the Healer

A second story I want to share is of a widow by the name of Mariam Bonkougou.

ACTS Ministry organized a HIV test for all widows in 2007 and sadly, this widow was found she was HIV positive. We directed her to the district medical center in the city for ARVs treatment.

She was not a Christian but attended our regular meetings with widows. She gave her life to the Lord Jesus and regularly attends the church.

One day during the women’s prayer meeting, there was a message that spoke specifically to her: **“There is someone here with a heavy burden, but the Lord is taking it off now.”**

She believed she was healed and decided the following week to put her faith on the line. She had another HIV test. The doctors were surprised when they found she was no longer HIV positive.

They began talking among themselves and told her to continue the treatment and have another test.



Mariam Bonkougou on December 1, 2009

Mariam has had a series of monthly tests (four) and each confirmed she is no longer HIV positive.

She is praising the Lord for his kindness towards her. We join her to give all praise and glory to the Lord! We waited to share this story until we could be certain about her healing.

We pray these stories will be an encouragement to you as they were to us.

ACTS Ministry is involved with the restoration and healing of women and children. This newsletter contains only two of the many testimonies. Your prayers and gifts have made these stories possible.

### Praise and Payer:

- ✓ Join with us in praising the Lord for his mercy and salvation among children and women
- ✓ Thank the Lord Jesus for food and other supplies donated for orphans and widows after the flooding in September.
- ✓ Please pray for the Lord’s protection over the children who find ACTS Hope Center as a place of refuge; we love them so much and do trust God to keep them every day
- ✓ Please pray for the Lord to provide food for the orphans and children in our school programs

Thank you very much for your prayers and your generous giving. As partners you have extended hands to touch the bodies, minds and souls of the poor and vulnerable ones in Burkina Faso.

We pray the Lord’s blessings be upon all of you. May His peace and grace be with you; may he visit you and cover you with mercy and love.

Happy and Blessed Christmas and also New Year!

Gratefully,

*Joanna Ilboudo*      *Sharyl J. Sieh*  
 Executive Director,      US President,  
 Joanna Ilboudo      Sharyl J. Sieh  
*Chevalier de l’ordre*  
*mérite Bukinabè*

*But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds,’  
 declares the Lord, ‘because you are called an outcast,  
 Zion for whom no one cares.’  
 Jeremiah 30:17*

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 In Burkina Faso ACTS Ministry is a registered NGO.

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