



## ACTS MINISTRY – Burkina Faso

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

Dear Friends,

These are exciting days for ACTS Ministry. The ministry continues to expand in projects, staff and number of individuals reached. It is all the Lord's doing and to Joanna and me it is a miracle.

I returned recently from a month-long visit with Joanna in Burkina Faso. Joanna and I travelled down the hot, bumpy, dusty roads outside of the capital city of Ouagadougou to visit ACTS project sites and meet many wonderful women and children. Their poverty and lack is apparent, but their hearts are warm and welcoming. They have great faith.

In Burkina one fifth of all children die before they reach the age of five. The major causes of this high child mortality are malaria; vaccine-preventable diseases like measles; under-nutrition; diarrhoea; and acute respiratory infections due to dust pollution. Access to water and sanitation is a major issue for young children who are more vulnerable to waterborne diseases. United Nations stats for sanitation and water show the need: 6% of rural population have adequate sanitation facilities and 54% use improved drinking water sources. This is why wells and sanitation facilities are a necessity for the ACTS Center and Medical/Dental Facility.

ACTS is ready for expansion of our medical and dental program. Children in our classes are eager to learn and listen attentively in classes. But disease is close at hand. The dust blown about by the wind brings with it bacteria and virus that infect lungs. Malaria is a deadly disease for village children already weakened by malnutrition and lung diseases. The dry season also brings meningitis and polio.



Rachel suturing a wounded ankle at the ACTS Center Clinic

The ACTS Center has Rachel, a full time nurse, who staffs the onsite clinic with a few supplies that have been donated by partners in the States and Europe. Daily she treats sick children with prayer, aspirin and vitamins. The children need a clinic that is fully supplied to meet their daily and emergency medical needs.

Nearby, the ACTS Dental/Medical Clinic is under construction. In February a team will come to Burkina to install the dental equipment in the newly built dental facility. They will train staff in proper dental procedures. Then in November we expect a team of physicians to come from Indiana to train medical staff and to volunteer their services for six weeks. This is an answer to prayer. Between now and November, we need to secure funding, drill a well, build the medical facility and secure medical staff for the clinics.

The government has promised to allocate a doctor and nurse to staff the medical clinic and a physician from Ouagadougou has promised to donate time to the ACTS Medical Clinic when it is built.

Hospitals in a developing country like Burkina Faso are not staffed, equipped and supplied as hospitals we see in the developed countries. Supplies are meagre. There are few qualified doctors. Medicine is not always available.



Sally (Kabre Salamala) on January 3, 2008

I want to tell you about Sally who lives in the village of Saonré and attends our school. When I was in Burkina, Sally was taken to a hospital in Ouagadougou. The doctors there were unable to do much. Death was in the air. She was so very thin, so very still. She didn't move or speak. She had a fever and was dehydrated. Joanna and I prayed for her, bought water for her as we looked through what was written on her chart. A week and a half later, when Joanna and I were with her again she was able to whisper and asked for vegetables to eat.

Sally's mother said she could not care for Sally as her husband had died and she had a nursing infant. She had no money, no job, no means of support. She had been sending Sally to the ACTS school, but had not been coming to the Center herself. She said that if Sally rose up from her death bed, she would take Sally to the ACTS Center to live. She believed her daughter would have love, food, school and care that she couldn't provide her in the village.

On December 24, Sally was sent from the hospital to the ACTS Center. Everyone was surprised she had survived. She still needs to gain strength, but she is alive and well-cared for at the Center. But ACTS needs to have adequate medical facilities to serve the 725 students in our care. Once in place, the medical/dental clinic will provide medical assistance for a much larger community. Men, women and children will come from far distances to find medical help. All assistance will be given in the name of Jesus Christ. Patients will know first-hand of the love shared by Christian staff and workers. Prayer and counselling will be a big part of the treatment of the sick.

Right now the ACTS staff is stretched as far as they can go. In 2007 we expended all the money earmarked for salaries and building projects. We are looking for sources for medical supplies, medicines and equipment as well as funds for building construction and well drilling. The medical/dental clinic needs a well before it can be operational.

Because the Lord has already put together a team of physicians who want to come, we know he has prepared donors to fill in the gaps. Are you one of those individuals? Do you know someone who might be able to help us with medical supplies? Would you pray for ACTS to find the open doors for funding? Thank you very much for partnering with ACTS Ministry in Burkina Faso. Your gift will bring hope and show the poor that others care about them because of Jesus Christ.

Yours very sincerely,

Sharyl J. Sieh  
President USA

Joanna Ilboudo  
Executive Director

ACTS is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) agency in the US and a registered NGO in Burkina Faso. All donations are tax deductible.

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