

Burkina Blurbs



"And He answered and said to them, 'Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have the Gospel preached to them.'" (Luke 7:22, NASB)

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Richer or Poorer?



I guess we figure, if we can't escape it, then neither should you. We can be, in a way, windows for you into the lives of real people who live in a very different reality. We live in one of the poorest regions of one of the poorest countries in the world. So what can we offer you, in your reality, with your stresses about job cuts and bank foreclosures?

We can share with you the richness of the small Christian community here. We can see people who can show us how material poverty does not diminish spiritual wealth.

With all of our stories and pictures, we're going to make you sick of this theme: poverty.

Yesterday, we had the opportunity to go to the Bible School at Nadiabuanli, a school with about 65 future pastors. After an hour and a half drive, which covered only 40 miles, we arrived at the school, about 20 minutes late for the Sunday morning church service. First thing I noticed? No shade in which to park the car. It was about 105 degrees in the sun. The church building was a straw thatch building, full of flies and mosquitoes. Nevertheless, 140 people were gathered there.

During worship, the school's students performed a song and dance they had written to cry out to God for water.

Even in the oppressive heat, the drums beat, and the choir danced, sang, and shouted as they prayed to God that their new well would fill with water. They currently have to carry buckets a mile to get water for the school.

After my sermon, we had communion. It was stale bread, and orange Fanta served in semi-clean communion cups. But the meaning of the ceremony remained, and the bond of fellowship at the school is made strong by the difficulties the students face together.

Inside this issue:

<i>Richer or Poorer?</i>	1
<i>Kids' Korner</i>	1
<i>Meet a Friend</i>	2
<i>Prayer & Praise</i>	2
<i>Did you Know?</i>	2
<i>Culture Shock!</i>	2



Kids' Korner

escape from our porch if the door is unlocked. It seems too young for him to master the two steps, but off he goes, nonetheless. And then, once in the yard, off he goes again!

"Oh brother! Where art thou?!" That's the title of one of our favorite movies. It also escapes from the mouths of two busy parents who have two very busy little boys.

If you're following the progress of our two intrepid voyagers, you'll have to keep a pretty sharp eye. Joel can now easily

A few weeks ago, Caleb was supposed to go to Betty's house to deliver an invitation to his 3rd birthday party. Unfortunately, Betty was not home. But rather than just give up, Caleb went looking for her. Caleb's dad was more than a little surprised to find Caleb almost all the way down at the Center...1 kilometer from home! Fortunately, Caleb is

very safe here in Mahadaga; everyone knows him. His mom and dad were still none too pleased. What a hike!

It can be an almost constant struggle to know how to teach, correct, and care for these two energetic boys. But we get so much back in return for our effort. They can both be as sweet as they are demanding, funny as they are frustrating, and lovable as they are independent.

Thanks for your prayers as these two grow up in West Africa.



