

Burkina Blurbs



"For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:15-16, NASB)

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Reconnecting



We were excited to welcome the team from our home church, West Shore Evangelical Free Church. Their short, intense two-week visit was a rich time and a real blessing to our family.

The seven visitors began working and kept a busy schedule almost as soon as they stepped off the plane in steamy Ouagadougou.

The team managed three different projects during their stay. While the technicians erected antennas and wireless networks for SIM's ministries, the others led a leadership seminar and a Vacation Bible School program. Despite their busy schedules, the team always found time to reach out to the people and see the work

that happens here in Mahadaga.

Buama, our house-helper, noted how much the team took time to interact with the Burkinabe. She exclaimed that, "If the team stayed, they would learn to speak Gourma in no time! They really like to talk to us."

What a great boost this team will give to our relationships with our neighbors. In addition, it seems that the team brought some American weather. The rains finally arrived here in Mahadaga with the team's visit!

The team's visit not only gave us emotional encour-

agement, but also bolstered our ministry to our neighbors and co-workers.

Although we were not able to completely finish all of the projects, we know that God's will was done completely in this team. Thanks!



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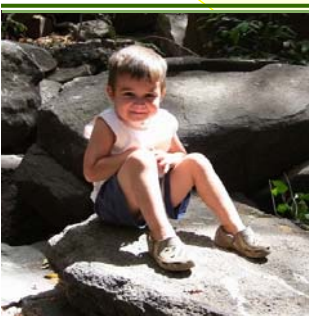
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Kids' Korner

It's hard to believe that Joel is now as old as Caleb was when we first arrived in Burkina Faso. Having an older brother to blaze the trail ahead of him, Joel is quite comfortable exploring the mission station, playing with the various children who come to visit each day, and chasing the animals out of our yard. He is starting to say a few words, including "more please", "down please", "night-night", and "no, no, no, no, no". He may be a bit more shy than Caleb, but he can hold his own in the head-strong department!

Caleb continues to surprise us with the French he's picked up, and more recently, a few Gourma

phrases as well. He loves to sing (loudly) and will often imitate the clapping, dancing and ululating he sees in church when we sing some of the more lively choruses. He is very focused and driven, and often imitates those around him: fixing the car or carrying the baby on his back.



Meet a Friend ^{Alice Ouali}



Tankoano is Florence's Gourma language helper and good friend. She is married and has a young daughter, Miriam, who is 2 years old. Her husband, Clement, is mostly deaf and works at the Center for the Advancement of the Handicapped as a teacher.

Alice grew up in a multicultural family. Her father was brought up in the Fuhlani culture, while her mother is Gourma. Though her father

currently pastors the Mahadaga Fuhlani church, Alice identifies more with her mother's culture. She is the oldest of five children, one of whom passed away five years ago from complications brought on by sickle cell disease.

Like her mother and deceased brother, Alice also has sickle cell disease. Flare-ups of this hereditary and debilitating illness can be very painful and can make childbirth dangerous. A severe flare-up of the disease during her childhood pre-

vented Alice from doing much schooling. As a teenage girl her parents opted to send her to a girl's school where she learned embroidery and sewing. She recently found out that she is expecting her second child in February. Though excited, she would appreciate your prayers.

Want more details on the ministry at the Center for the Advancement of the Handicapped? Sign up for their newsletter by emailing hamahadaga@simbf.uuplus.com or for postal service, write to SIM Mission Protestante, B.P. 18, Diapaga, Burkina Faso

Prayer & Praise

If you are interested in supporting us, make your gift payable to:

SIM USA
PO Box 7900
Charlotte, NC 28241
www.sim.org

Please be sure to place our missionary number on the memo (#72417).

- Praise that Liz was able to come help out while the Walsh family is on furlough; continue to pray that her full support will come in so that she can rejoin us again soon.
- Pray for rain; they are late

in coming this year.

- Praise that the Walsh family returned safely from their furlough; pray for their transition back into the work here.
- Pray for wisdom in responding to various personnel issues: for sensitivity in dealing with those who need to be confronted and for direc-

tion in reorganizing after some recent resignations.

- Praise for God's provision for the CAH thus far; pray that giving will remain strong so that we can end the fiscal year in the black.
- Pray for safe travels and a relaxing vacation in August.

Did You Know?

- Most Burkinabe pastors earn \$50 - \$60 per month.
- The average life-span of a Burkinabe is 44 years.
- A small motorbike can carry a family of four, a full-sized bed, or up to six goats!
- A 3-year-old boy requires up to four showers per day! (or at least Caleb does)
- That missions work can use virtually any career or skill...from child-care to accounting to physical-therapy.



Culture Shock!

- As spring makes an appearance, most students (and teachers) in the US start counting down the days until the last day of school. In the Burkinabe school system, however, the school closing date is often unknown until a month or two before!
- In Gourma culture, the left hand is considered unclean. All greetings, eating, giving, receiving and gestures involving other people must be done with the right hand!