



10° North Partnering with Ghana Christian University College in West Africa through Education and Christian Community Development

Kimberly's March 2009 Newsletter

Parle vous Francais? A Visit to Burkina Faso



It was on a night in which the electricity went off that I decided to get out the one French-language CD I have. At that time, I didn't know I would be traveling next door to French-speaking Burkina Faso at the end of the month. I only knew that learning the French language has been a goal of mine (especially since what I had learned in high-school has been long forgotten). Lying next to me on the bed was the CD player and a lantern so I could see the small accompanying booklet. It wasn't much of a resource, but it was something. I tried my best to repeat the phrases I heard, saying them like the voices on the CD. You know, there's one thing I don't understand about the French language . . . why do consonant letters appear at the end of most French words although they're not pronounced?

During my spring break, I traveled with Terry and Amy Ruff to Burkina Faso to meet some missionaries working there. I was all for a road trip, and interested in the work. If the missionaries were doing community development, using Community Health Evangelism's (CHE) ministry model, I wanted to see firsthand what it looked like in actual implementation. Teaching business classes in GCU's Community Development program has provided limited exposure to some of the needs here in West Africa. However, my greatest desire is to be actively involvement in community development work and ministry.

Traveling first to northern Ghana by 13-hour bus ride, followed by a 4 1/2 hr drive across the Ghana/Burkina Faso border and into the city of Ougadougou (pronounced "waga-doo-goo") by truck—where we stayed overnight, continuing on for a 6 hr drive to Banfora for two days/nights, then a 2 hr drive to Dano for two days/nights, and finally an 8 hr drive back to Tamale, northern Ghana, I had quite an adventure. One difference I noticed between Ghana and Burkina Faso is that Burki-



Mark Your Calendars

4/29	Arrival into the U.S. Chicago, IL
5/3	Tentative visit: Everybody's Church in Chicago, IL
5/9 5/10	Travel to Norfolk, VA Faith Community Church
5/11 to 5/16	Leadership classes at RU Virginia Beach, VA
5/17	Visit—Avalon Church of Christ, Virginia Beach, VA
5/17 to 5/22	Community Health Evangelism (CHE) training with CMF Indianapolis, IN
5/23 to 5/31	Ministry partnership planning with Triune Int'l Spring Grove, PA
6/1 to 6/7	Visit—Bellevue Christian Church in Pittsburgh, PA
6/8 to 6/11	Chicago, IL (Forwarding Agent #1)
6/12 to 6/14	Ministry partnership planning with Mission Resource Int'l (MRI); Indianapolis, IN
6/14 to 6/21	Visit with supporters, family/friends. Church of the Great Commission
6/22	Louisville, KY/Cincinnati, OH church visits, supporters

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nabe rely more on donkeys to haul things, and more people ride bicycles or mopeds—except for the guy who loaded his bicycle on top of a car, along with everything else. Another difference is that in Burkina, most of the building structures are rust colored, and a significant number of homes are made from mud bricks rather than cement blocks. But probably the biggest difference is the food—local food in Burkina tastes better. I could certainly get used to French cuisine, but not the prices. Everything from beef brisket to ice cream to phone units seemed to be more expensive in Burkina. I noticed quite a few differences about Burkina as compared to Ghana, but one thing the two countries have in common is the friendliness of the people.

Did my little knowledge of the French language help? At times. I could say what I wanted to say without much difficulty (to me) if I were the one to speak first. But whenever I responded to a Burkinabe, my brain quickly translated the words into French while my mouth spoke them in Spanish. For example, instead of "oui" (yes), out came "si." Everyone would just laugh. In spite of these challenges, and the occasional difficulty Burkinabe had in understanding what I was saying (how many different ways can you say the word "diesel" before they get you?), we did just fine.

All in all, it was a great trip. And I'm sure I'll go again someday. Guess I'd better keep practicing French. :)

The work in Burkina Faso

The team in Banfora is relatively new on the field. The Hausers had previously served in Cote d'Ivoire, and the Gordons in Benin. Their aim is to provide holistic ministry to the Burkinabe, but they're uncertain what that will look like. Both are familiar with Community Health Evangelism (CHE), but would probably benefit from recruiting other team members having the focus, training, experience, and patience to implement it (I will explain more about CHE in an upcoming newsletter).

Please pray for this team; for God's guidance and direction. And pray for future team members.

The team in Dano has been on the field for at least 7 years, and has successfully planted a number of churches. I can't remember all of their names, but we stayed with the Johnsons. Andy Johnson said his team chose Burkina after learning from a study that there has been less missionary activity in French-speaking, West African countries than those that are English-speaking. Still, missionaries working in

Burkina have to learn one of the local dialects in addition to French. Andy took us to one of the church plants. The people warmly greeted the Ruffs, but when I was introduced, there was some discussion and smiles. Later, Andy told me that the people inquired about my skin color. I think they were both fascinated and excited that I was brown like them. Pray for this team's continued effectiveness in planting churches among the peoples. And pray for Andy's Fulani friend who is considering converting to Christianity.

Financial Recap March

Receipts

Avalon Church of Christ	\$ 100.00
Bellevue Christian Church	250.00
Christ Temple Cathedral	160.00
Faith Community Church	150.00
K & B Fashion	200.00
Living Water ABF (Southeast)	316.00
Southeast Christian	500.00
St. James Missionary Baptist	100.00
Individuals	\$2,340.00
Total Receipts	\$4,116.00
Expenses:	
100 - Salary	\$ 540.00
110 - Medical Insurance	374.55
130 - Social Security	140.00

141 - Roth IRA	250.00
150 - Housing	160.00
320 - Hospitality	48.26
450 - Evangelism/Compassion Proj	48.91
470 - Joint Team Projects	725.00
490 - National Co-Workers	119.57
550 - Postage in the U.S.	67.20
650 - Supplies in the States	91.00
660 - Mission Phone	54.35
661 - Internet	120.65
740 - Home Office	100.00
800 - Car/Transportation	109.56
810 - Car/Vehicle Maintenance	32.61
840 - Travel/Legal (visa to Burkina)	21.74
880 - Home Service Fund	250.00
920 - Banking Fees	36.01
990 - Miscellaneous	8.70
Total Expenses	\$3,207.11

Prayer Praises & Requests

Praise—Although I still don't have home Internet access, God continues to make a way for me to get my work done through the kindness of friends.

Praise—I've been able to get some inexpensive domestic flights this summer thanks to Southwest Airline's special.

Prayer—That I may be able to borrow someone's car while in Louisville this summer to save on rental fees. I'll probably be in town for about 6 weeks.

Prayer—For my parents' move to Houston this summer. My father.

Prayer—That I may be able to get more French-language resources, especially Rosetta Stone's French levels 1 & 2.

Send a personal letter or card to Kimberly at:

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