

UNDER THE ACACIAS

Keith and Lynne Smith on the road to Burkina Faso

30 July 2009

More photos and regular updates at Keith's blog : www.undertheacacias-blog.org.uk

Thank you to all of you who have been part of our lives over the past years. As we have married, we have been so grateful for friends and family who have stood with us across the years. We look forward to travelling forward together into the new future God has for us together as Mr and Mrs Smith, and we hope you will join us. We need your prayers, friendship, and support in every way.



Our desire is that our lives, our marriage, and our home, should be used for the Lord and his purposes, to bring his grace, love, healing, and salvation to the world he created, and for whom Jesus died. In particular, among the poor and vulnerable in Burkina Faso, West Africa, where Keith has been working for 20 years.

This is our first joint newsletter, and we would like to share something of our story and vision with you.

Our Wedding Day : "I'm A Believer"



We had a wonderful wedding and honeymoon, and are thoroughly enjoying married life! Thank you for all your prayers. It was great to have many of you there. We just wish you could all have joined us. Our prayer was that our wedding day would turn people's eyes to Jesus, and be a time of celebration and joy, and that is the way it turned out. You can see photos and videos at our website: www.undertheacacias.org.uk

Above all, we want to thank our parents and our churches for their love and support down the years, and through our wedding.

Journeys : Two Paths Join Together

Lynne: "I've been involved in evangelism through local church since I committed my life to Christ - especially among the poor, overseas students, & immigrants. I studied 3 years at Bible College in the US in a course on "Church Planting and Frontier Mission" with a faith-defining 3 months outreach in India.

Since then I've been using my dental skills in Thailand and Mozambique, training local believers to provide basic dental care within their communities, and combining clinics with preaching the gospel. I've been working as a dentist in Scotland part-time, travelling overseas twice a year. When in Bonnie Scotland, I serve in my local church (Mossvale Community Church), which has been an invaluable source of love and encouragement to me!"



Keith: "Since 1989, I've been working with World Horizons in northern Burkina Faso, primarily in evangelism and church-planting among the unreached Muslim Fulani. There are now a small number of local believers, and some excellent Burkinabe pastors with whom I work closely.

Since 2006, we have increasingly been finding practical ways of bringing God's love to these communities, including food aid, well-drilling, education, etc. I have now started a charity - the Acacia Partnership Trust (APT) - to help facilitate all the work there. I am forever grateful to my home church, Glenwood Church in Cardiff, which has been a tremendous support, both for me and for the work."



Mr and Mrs Smith: Now, after following God's paths for us individually for many years, these paths have converged, and we look forward to how He will weave our stories together in Burkina Faso. We both face many changes. Keith has moved from Cardiff to Scotland, which will now be our UK base. For Lynne, there are many upheavals. She will leave her job and income as a dentist, and set up home in Gorom-Gorom, among a people where she doesn't (yet!) know the language or culture. And she will be away from friends and family for much of the year. Please pray for us as we seek God's way forward. Thank you.

Vision for the Future : Good news to the poor

Eventually we expect to be in Burkina Faso for six months each year, working in church-planting and church-centred sustainable community development through the charity APT. This will involve us in evangelism and discipleship as well as working with local churches to bring God's love through poverty relief, education, clean water, etc. We also hope to start a mobile dental clinic to work in villages.

The other six months we would be based in the UK, developing the charity and church relationships that will enable us to bring God's blessing to Burkina Faso.

The Year Ahead

In the year ahead, we will be setting a foundation for our coming years of service as a married couple:
2009:

- **Now - Aug 28: UK.** After decades of singleness, we are beginning to find our feet as a married couple! Lynne continues work as a dentist, while Keith continues to develop APT and liaise with the work in Burkina Faso. We are also praying and preparing for our future in Burkina Faso. Lynne has already begun to learn a few phrases in Fulfulde!
- **Aug 29- Sep 16. Burkina Faso.** We will take just a short trip to Gorom-Gorom, to begin to get an idea of how we will live and work there together. In particular, we have two goals at that time:
 - Setting up home. We will begin to set up home in Gorom-Gorom, in the Ministry Centre, with Seydou & Monique, and Pierre & Asetu. We are looking forward to spending time with them and Pascal and Grace and our other friends there. We also hope to have a local "Wedding Blessing".
 - Soccer School. We hope to have 100 local Muslim children for a 5-day residential soccer school, led by Pastor Adama, with support from a team from Glenwood and St Nics churches.
- **Sep 17 - Dec: UK.** Continuing to develop APT and church partnerships. We will also need to sell our house, buy a flat, and begin to prepare for our future in Burkina.

2010:

- **Jan - Jun: France.** Lynne will need to improve her French to be able to function well in Burkina Faso, so we plan to spend some time at one of the World Horizons bases there. Keith will be able to continue APT work and liaison with Burkina Faso from there.
- **July: Burkina Faso?** Target date for our first long stay together. By then, we also hope to have built a house in Gorom-Gorom and bought a vehicle.

News From Burkina

- Please pray for good rains. The season has not started well in Gorom-Gorom area.
- School. We hope to take in a second year for the Christian primary school we are starting with the church in Gorom-Gorom. Plans to build the school continue to make progress.
- Please continue to pray for Pascal & Grace, Pierre & Asetu, Seydou & Monique, and all our friends.
- Continue to pray for the small group of local believers to grow in faith and grace.

Thank you again for all your support and prayers.

Keith and Lynne

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