

UNDER THE ACACIAS

Keith and Lynne Smith on the road to Burkina Faso

30 Oct 2009

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

Wedding Number Two!

Dear Friends,

We can hardly believe we were married only in June...so much has happened in the last 4 months. Here is an update of our married life so far....

We had a very fruitful and extremely busy visit to Burkina for three weeks in August/September. This included our African wedding, a little livelier than our Scottish one! It was a joyous occasion and many of our Muslim friends and neighbours came to celebrate with us.



Gorom-Gorom

Soccer Camp:

Another reason for our trip to Burkina was to facilitate a 7 day Soccer Camp for 110 local kids. The camp was the vision of Pastor Adama from Markoye working with Ian Sutton and Steve Williams from Glenwood Church and was a tremendous success. 11 guys and girls came from Cardiff and 3 from Nottingham. They did a fabulous job teaching football skills and building relationship with the kids. At the end of the camp we had a football match between the visitors and the local Gorom team, which was rained off while the Gorom team was winning 1-0. We met with the Mayor of Gorom-Gorom, and the Ministry of Sport representative for the province attended the camp. It has left a powerful testimony in both Markoye and Gorom.



The Church is Growing:

We also were tremendously privileged to attend an inter-church baptism of 9 new converts, including the first Tamacheq believer in our region. Pastor Pierre and Seydou have started evangelism in 2 local villages and have found people to be open to the Gospel. A team from Brazil, the US, and Niger came to work with them recently on a short term outreach amongst the Songhai, and we've heard that 3 people have come to faith. Also 3 believers in the Gorom churches have shown a desire to study the Bible and work with the church in evangelism. Our charity, APT (see below), is helping to facilitate this. It's exciting times for the church in Burkina. Please continue to pray for open hearts and for those who have come to faith and face difficulties and opposition.



Future Dental Clinic: We had amazing meetings with the Ministry of Health representative for the region, and with the Director for the Hospital in Gorom-Gorom, and have been asked to train nurses in the local hospital in basic dental health and extractions. We also have verbal approval to start a mobile clinic in the villages, working with Pastor Pierre to bring pain relief and the Good News of Jesus. Lynne with some church friends and work colleagues recently took part in a 5K Fun Run and raised £1,300 towards equipment for the project.

A School For Gorom-Gorom

35 new students have been registered for the second intake for the Gorom-Gorom school, as it starts its second year. **Please pray** for the teachers and children, that they may know God's blessing this year. We have also taken on some more children for sponsorship in secondary education, giving them an opportunity for a better future. Thank you to everyone who is involved in sponsoring.



We had hoped the construction of the school would have begun by now. The reasons for the delay have been various. Partly a result of trying to do everything as well as possible, and of keeping the church in Burkina and partners in Europe walking together in the way forward. We want to get this right, and hope that the end result will be not only a quality school, but one that reflects the heart of God's love for the marginalised and dispossessed. **Please pray** that we may together make swift progress now on the construction project.

Class Sponsorship

We have found at least partial sponsorship for this second intake, and are hoping for more. **Please pray** that this will work out - we know it is difficult for people to make such commitments at this time of worldwide financial difficulties. See more about the school at the APT website (see below).

Acacia Partnership Trust Online

Acacia Partnership Trust (APT) is the charity we have founded to help facilitate the work of the Pastors in North Burkina. Thanks to the hard work of David Nelson the website is now up and running. Go here to see more on all our work in Burkina Faso:

www.acaciapartnershiptrust.org.uk

Plans:

- **Now - Jan: UK.** Continuing to develop APT and church partnerships. Developing relationship with our home churches, friends and supporters. Lynne has left her job and now is doing temp work. We have struggled to sell our house, and are now looking into renting it. Please pray for this.
- **Jan-June: 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. Please pray as we make arrangements for our stay in France.
- **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

- Evangelism. Please pray for ongoing evangelism and for the new believers.
- School. Pray for the children and teachers, and for the construction of the building.
- 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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