

UNDER THE ACACIAS

Keith and Lynne Smith on the road to Burkina Faso

10 Jan 2010

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

Dear Friends,

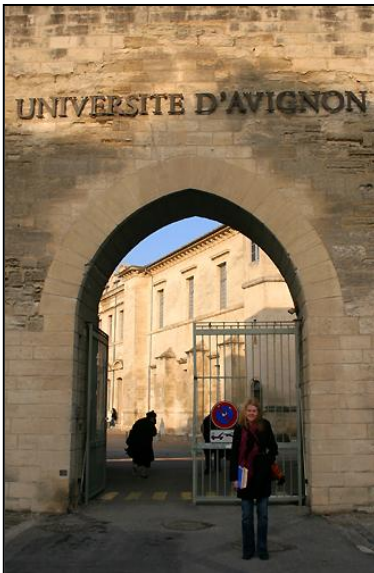
Thank you for your ongoing prayers as we continue our journey back to Burkina Faso. As you know, we are currently in France as Lynne works on improving her French, and we hope to be back in Burkina in July. Here is our proposed itinerary for the next few months:

- **Now-Apr 2: France** - Language study
- **Apr 3-18 (Easter break): UK** (based in Scotland)
(Apr 14-18 Cardiff: speaking at Glenwood Ch, Sun 18)
- **Apr 18-Jun 22: France** - Language study
- **Jun 23-Jul 23: UK** - Preparations for Burkina.
- **Late July - Burkina Faso**



We have not yet been able to sell our house in Scotland, but have just heard of someone who will rent it for six months, which will give us some breathing space over the time we are in France, at least. Please continue to pray that we are able to sell it in the near future.

France: daily fun with the passé composé



Lynne has started language study at Avignon university (for more photos, see our blog). She is doing an intensive course, 15 hours/week, plus homework and personal tutoring. The level is academic and challenging, but she is making good progress. Keith tries to help her too, but is convinced she will be correcting his French before our time here is up!

Please pray for God's grace daily for Lynne to learn the language. This will enable her to function well in Burkina, and then to begin to learn her next language, Fulfulde! Also pray for conversation opportunities outside of classes, and that she can switch off at night and sleep well.

We are staying at the Horizons centre at Bourg St Andéol, where we have a small apartment (above), about 45 minutes drive from the university. Twice a week, we stay over in Avignon with some kind friends there - it is great to spend time in a French-speaking family.

While Lynne is in class, Keith is usually in the university library, or back in Bourg, working on admin for APT, accounts, emails, writing newsletters, and liaising with the work in Burkina. While in France, we also hope to visit two churches that are involved in our work in Burkina, in Nantes and St Etienne.

Foundations for the Future: building work begins in Gorom-Gorom

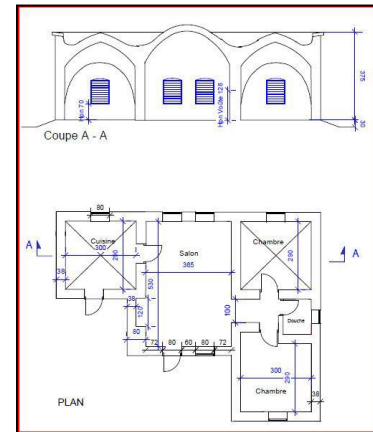
Two building projects, for which we have been praying for a long time, are now beginning!

1. GOROM-GOROM SCHOOL

Thank you for your prayers for this over the last months. We have seen rapid progress over the last weeks, as Pete Richardson, Richard Woods, and the folk from Capita and DWF have worked hard to put their ideas behind the vision of the pastors in Burkina. Building has started on parts of the school, and we hope to have it open in time for the 2010 school entry in October!

Teachers' Housing: Work has begun on building the teachers' housing (see right), and these should be finished by the end of April. We are building three houses initially, each with two bedrooms, a sitting room, kitchen, shower room, and outside toilet. They are being built in Woodless Construction technology by DWF, using traditional techniques to build houses entirely out of mud, including the roof. This saves on scarce wood, promotes local industry by using local skills and materials, and gives good internal comfort.

Classrooms. Designs are now being finalised. Although we have not been able to introduce all the innovations we hoped for, we believe the design and layout of the classrooms will provide an improved environment for the children. We hope that the classrooms 1-3 will be built by October, in time for us to receive the third intake. We will need more funds before we can build classes 4-6 to complete the school buildings. If you wish to support us in this, please visit the APT website to see how you can help: <http://www.acaciapartnershiptrust.org.uk/current-projects/gorom-gorom-school>



2. HOUSE AND OFFICE

Following our visit in Sep, we realised that Keith's single room would be too small for both us and an office! We have now received some generous gifts which will enable us to build a house and office in the Oudalan Ministry Centre - the yard we share with Seydou and Pierre and their families. As well as a home for us, this will be the base for all our work in Burkina.

The house will be built in mud bricks, using Woodless Construction techniques, like the teachers' housing at the school. It will have a sitting room, two bedrooms, kitchen, office, and shower room. DWF will build it at the same time as the teachers' houses, so we hope to have it too completed by the end of April.

Acacia Partnership Trust Online

Acacia Partnership Trust (APT) is the charity we have founded to help facilitate our work with the church in North Burkina. This is the website, where you can find out all about our different projects:

www.acaciapartnershiptrust.org.uk

We now have online giving set up through the website, if you wish to give towards the work in Burkina Faso. And, APT now has a Facebook Group, through which you can keep up with developments

Other News From Burkina Faso

- **Evangelism.** We thank God for encouraging news of groups of new believers starting in different Fulani and Songhai villages. In particular, in village "Y", where we have been doing evangelism for many years, a cell church is now beginning. Please pray for God's grace.
- **School: Class Sponsorship.** We are really encouraged to have received full sponsorship for the second intake of children for the full six years! Thank you for your prayers for this.
- **Vehicle and "Stuff":** We are in the process of buying a vehicle to replace the one Keith used to have. We will also need to buy all kinds of "stuff" - in particular kitchen utensils - as we begin to set up our own home in Burkina.
- **Colleagues.** Please continue to pray for Pascal & Grace, Pierre & Asetu, Seydou & Monique, and all our friends. We hope to travel back to Burkina together with our colleagues Steve and Charlie and their new baby Liberty. It will be a great encouragement in particular for Lynne to have Charlie around, as another woman who can help her in areas that Keith knows nothing about...!

Thank you again for all your support and prayers.

Keith and Lynne

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