

UNDER THE ACACIAS

Keith and Lynne Smith on the road to Burkina Faso

May 2010

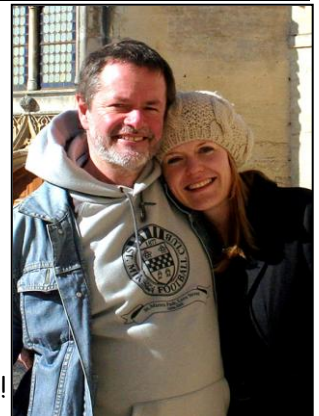
More photos and regular updates at Keith's blog : www.undertheacacias-blog.org.uk

Parlez-Vous Francais?

Dear Friends,

We've gone for a blue themed newsletter this month not because of the change in government in Britain but in celebration of West Bromwich Albion's promotion back to the Premiership, which is after all infinitely more important to Keith. Also because it's been so cold in France that Lynne is turning blue.

Our time in France is almost over. It's not been an easy 3 months but it has been very profitable. Lynne has been studying her socks off at Avignon University and has made great progress in French. Keith's days have been filled with APT work (www.acaciapartnershiptrust.org.uk), communication with Burkina about the school project, and as Lynne's full-time French teacher/driver. No rest for the righteous!



Easter in Gorom-Gorom



Christ est ressuscité, Il est vraiment ressuscité!

As Easter holidays approached we saw the need for a trip out to Burkina. Some issues just can't be resolved over a bad Skype connection or an email. God provided the finance quite remarkably for the trip so in April we found ourselves in 42 degree heat celebrating Easter in our favourite church in Gorom-Gorom. Here you can see us with our new truck, a wonderful blessing to us and the ministry. We also were able to witness the foundations being laid for our new home. It should be finished in June!

The Pastors:

We met up with each pastor in our province to listen to their vision, the projects they are involved in, and the struggles they face to feed their families and live for Jesus in Oudalan province. Their commitment, faithfulness and personal sacrifice are hugely inspiring and challenging. And their lives are producing good fruit. There is an openness to the good news like never before. One morning we were awakened at 4am by a voice coming from the other side of town. We recognised the voice... it was Keith! Each morning a local Fulani believer broadcasts the gospel in our town from 4am to 5am using a loudspeaker, sometimes with gospel cassettes other times he preaches himself. And surprisingly the local people love it!

The Church is Growing:

Pascal, Pierre, and Seydou continue to reach out into Songhai villages with regular evangelism and are seeing people come to Christ and small groups of believers forming in several villages. Several schoolchildren have come to the Lord, and started going to a local church. A lot of parents have been opposed, and some of them have now stopped going. There are three new pastors moving into the province: Paul, Joel and Jean.

Please Pray for these men and their families as they make the transition from pastor of a thriving church to pastor-missionary in an un-reached area. They will all have to start learning local language and find a way to support themselves.



A School For Gorom-Gorom

It was our pleasure to visit the primary school in Gorom-Gorom and to see the progress the first class have made under the care of Headmaster Nicodeme. In the second class there are 31 enthusiastic children, eager to learn, well fed and obviously very happy to be there. The new teacher Prosper Bamogo is doing a great job. He struggled initially with some health issues, but he clearly has a passion for the work and a love for the children.



Please pray for the teachers and children, that they may know God's blessing.



Thank you to everyone who is involved in sponsoring the classes.

The construction of the teacher's housing is now well under way (left), and work on the classrooms is imminent. The housing is a traditional mud-brick design. The classrooms will be in cement/tin.

Please pray for continued progress on the construction project.

Keith and Lynne Plans

During our second week of Easter break we had the privilege of spending some time with friends and family and visiting our home churches. Due to a volcanic ash cloud in Iceland and a train strike in France we got stuck in the north of France for an enforced 4 days holiday... quelle dommage!

Plans:

- **Now - end June : France.** Now that school is out (whoopee!) we have the opportunity to visit APT's partnering churches in France. We'll be speaking in Nantes and St Etienne. We have also been invited to speak in our local church in Bourg. **Please pray** that we communicate clearly God's heart for the unreached.
- **July-Aug: UK.** We'll be back in the UK for a month before heading out to Burkina. Our priorities are to spend time with family and friends, visit our home churches and make arrangements to leave in August. **Please pray** as we plan our time in Britain.
- **August: Burkina Faso.** We plan to be away for 7 months (ash cloud permitting).



Prayer For 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.
- **Family.** Pray for Pascal & Grace, Pierre & Asetu, Seydou & Monique, and all our friends.
- **Faith.** Continue to pray for the small group of local believers to grow in faith and grace.

'I thank my God upon every remembrance of you... because you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ. Philippians 1:3-5

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