

The coming months

Over the coming year, I hope to put in place the building blocks of this ministry:

- **Sun 30 July.** Re-commissioning at Glenwood Church, Cardiff, when I will be preaching and sharing vision. Please come if you can!
- **Aug-Oct.**
 - Building UK support team, visiting churches in UK and elsewhere to share vision, seek potential partners etc.
 - Burkina Faso: Building a team base in Gorom-Gorom.
- **Oct-Feb.** Back to Burkina. Working with national workers in evangelism, and exploring together the mission needs and strategy for each place.

Please Pray

- For God's anointing and grace for those working among the Fulani in Burkina
- For direction and wisdom as I move forward into this new season of ministry
- For the development of a good network and support team here in the UK
- For the emergence of partnering churches in the UK and elsewhere



Contact

Keep up-to-date by visiting my website:
www.undertheacacias.org.uk
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M:i-2 ...the mission continues...



Keith Smith's news

July 2006

A Return to Burkina Faso

After a two-year sabbatical, I am now returning to ministry among the Muslim Fulani of northern Burkina Faso. This is an exciting new season for me, which will also involve exciting new ways of working.

I will be working more closely with national workers, to see the kingdom of God bringing spiritual and social transformation in the north of Burkina. And we will be looking for partners to join with us in the ministry.

I hope that you too will be able to partner with us for this new season. Thank you.

Keith

The Burkina Faso Sahel



The Burkina Faso sahel is the northern zone of hot, scrubby land that borders the desert. It includes the provinces of Oudalan (capital: Gorom-Gorom), Soum (capital: Djibo), and Seno (capital: Dori). It is the least developed part of Burkina. For example, Oudalan has a population of about 170 000, with a literacy rate of 8%, a life expectancy of 42, and with only 2 doctors for the whole province.

It is a zone that is over 99% Muslim, primarily Fulani, Tamacheq, Songhai, and Kurumba peoples. Some Mossi and other peoples from the south also work in the area, mostly in commerce or government services.

Hope for the Sahel

Yet things are changing. I believe that the kingdom of God will bring spiritual and social transformation to this region.

There is now a small number local Christians among the Fulani and Songhai, who are increasingly mature and able to take on ministry. As well as missionaries such as my colleague Steve in Djibo, there is also a small, but increasing number of pastors and Christians from the south peoples working in the region with vision and commitment.

In Oudalan, for example, Seydou and “P” and pastors “A”, “M”, and others are devoting themselves to the work in the province. They have vision and ability, but often lack resources and training for such a cross-cultural ministry. The future of the work in the region, however, must be built on them, and not just on foreign missionaries. This is why I want to work increasingly to empower local workers in the ministry.



Seydou



Steve

A Vision for Things to Come

I hope to spend 6 months of each year in Burkina Faso, working with local Christians in integral mission. I will then also be trying to build partnerships with churches elsewhere for mission in the Burkina Sahel, and to mobilise churches for God's mission today.

Integral Mission in the Burkina Faso Sahel

Working for spiritual and social transformation among the Fulani and other peoples of the north of Burkina Faso

- **Empowering national workers in ministry.** We want to train and equip pastors to become agents of transformation in their areas. I am starting a base for ministry in the region, from where Seydou and others can work.
- **Ongoing evangelism, discipleship and church-planting.** Working with and facilitating the ministry of national workers in the area.
- **Social ministry and community development.** May include a Christian school in Gorom-Gorom, grain banks, micro-enterprise, child sponsorship, and more, depending on the needs and concerns of each area.

Partnerships for Mission

Building “twinning” relationships between churches in northern Burkina and those in the west, founded on mutual respect and sharing:

- **Mission.** Meaningful joint engagement in mission to the Fulani. Western churches coming alongside national workers in seeking spiritual and social transformation.
- **Two-way sharing.** African churches also contributing to us in our pursuit of community and spirituality in the busy-ness and fragmentation of 21st century post-modern Europe.

Exploring these through mutual visits, prayer, conversation, and financial engagement.



Mission mobilisation

Stimulating churches and missionaries to radical thinking about faith and mission:

- Teaching on missionary training programmes
- Helping churches in Muslim contexts think about engaging with their neighbours
- Speaking with churches around the world about mission today – in our own backyards, as well as overseas