

UNDER THE ACACIAS

Keith and Lynne Smith on the road to Burkina Faso

September 2010

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

Dear Friends,

Have you ever been surprised by God? Had your route mapped and plans made only to be completely blindsided by something you never expected? Read on.....

Baby Smith!

We had decided after celebrating our first year of marriage in July to start trying for a baby...after all as friends reminded us these things can take time for old folks like us. The week before our departure for Burkina Lynne started to feel ill, and when the blue line showed on the pregnancy test we knew why. On doctors' advice (partly because she was so sick, and also because malaria medication is unsafe in the first trimester) Lynne remained in Scotland in the good care of her parents while Keith returned to Burkina for 6 weeks. It was a difficult time to be apart, but a lot was accomplished in Burkina and Keith was able to furnish our new home in preparation for Lynne's return.



Baby Smith at 14 weeks

Shortly after Keith's return we had our first scan. It was a very emotional moment as we saw for the first time this tiny little person stretching and moving inside Lynne. Lynne's health has much improved, so we will be returning to Burkina on the 30th September. Keith will continue in his support role working with the local Pastors, preaching and teaching. Lynne will be starting Fulfulde studies, working alongside Keith, starting some dental outreach and building relationship with local women. After some drama we have rented out our home in Scotland - thank you to all who prayed!

The Work In Burkina

New Pastors Move To The Region

One of the most exciting developments in our region is the advancement of the Gospel through new Pastor-Missionaries. Pierre, Seydou and Pascal have been faithful in regularly preaching the gospel in the unreached villages in our province. Little groups of new believers have been forming, and now we have 2 new Pastors who will disciple them and also continue to share the Good News.



Paul

Pastor Paul has moved into a Songhai village with his wife Minata and 4 children. Paul was working as a pastor in another village among another people group. There he had a reasonable-sized church and good fields, and the church members helped support him. But he has spoken for years of his vision to come back to Oudalan to work among the unreached Muslim peoples there.

Paul, Minata and 3 of their 4 Children

Jean: Pastor Jean, his wife Martine and 4 of his 7 children have moved into a Tamacheq village. He has a similar story to Pauls, leaving a thriving church and good means of support. Jean is very motivated, has started language learning and does outreach through playing football with local lads. He has a gift of healing, and recently prayed for a man in a taxi who was instantly healed of painful swollen hands.

The Word Of God Is Powerful And Effective!

Pierre and Seydou have been building relationship with some of the local Muslim religious teachers. These devout men invited them to their mosque to debate religion, even putting on a meal. Two of the Muslim religious teachers continue to meet with Pierre. On his recent visit Keith had some good talks with these men who said 'We believe Jesus is the Saviour, but now we don't know what to do about Mohammed'. Praise God that many are seeking and finding Jesus, and pray for them in their journey of faith

A Primary School For Gorom-Gorom

On his recent visit to Gorom Keith met with Nicodeme, the Headmaster of the Christian Primary School. He tells us that both classes are doing well. Each morning the teachers sing and pray with the children. All the children pray at home, and sometimes come and testify (e.g. that they prayed for a sick parent and he was healed, or that they needed a sheep & someone gave them one). Their attitudes have also changed - some used to say "church is not good" but now they enjoy singing songs to God in class. Nicodeme has begun recruiting pupils for the next school year, and he's awaiting a new teacher from the national church. We are pleased to report that sponsorship has been found for the third class.

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



Phase 1 Gorom Gorom Primary School

It is with great joy that we have been witnessing the construction of Phase 1 of the school building project, and it will be ready for the start of the school year in October. We presently have three classrooms (foreground) and two of the three teachers houses have been completed (background). The church plans an inauguration ceremony of the school on Sat 6th November, and we hope representatives of both APT and Glenwood Church will be present.

Phase 2 of construction could begin next rainy season, subject to funding. It will include a further three classrooms, three teachers' houses and auxiliary buildings.

Keith and Lynne Plans

Sept 30: Smiths to Burkina Faso.

- **25-29 October**- Dental Clinic with school children, Ouagadougou
- **6 November** -Inauguration for Gorom-Gorom School, with team from Glenwood/APT
- **26 December approx**- Team from USA for a week of evangelism in Songhai villages.
- **Early January**-Church Partnership Team from Hatteras Island, USA

End January- Smiths return to the UK.

- **March 11th**: ETA for Baby Smith.

Prayer For Burkina

- **Evangelism.** Please pray for ongoing evangelism and for those with seeking hearts.
- **School.** Pray for the children & teachers, and for funding for the construction of Phase 2.
- **New Pastors.** Pray for their language learning, for them to build good relationships in their communities, reach people effectively for Christ and find ways to support their families.
- **Teams.** For the teams coming out to have a rich and challenging experience.
- **APT.** The work is expanding and subsequently our admin needs. Pray for volunteers to help.
- **Keith, Lynne and Baby.** For good health and for the transition as we move out to Burkina.

Thank you!

Keith and Lynne

'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

Keith and Lynne Smith, BP22, Gorom-Gorom, Burkina Faso, West Africa

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