

Newsletter # 0007– Tuesday 3 March 2009
Mission to Burkina-Faso
Mark Carine Anaëlle and Joshua LEWIS

John 17v3 “Now this is Eternal Life that they may know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent”.

Our local church theme for this year is “Church is my Family”. As part of this we debated why people don't turn up for prayer meetings and other events... and have now organised the prayer meeting in peoples houses through-out the year on Thursday nights. We are also considering a “week of Grace” in which we will encourage Christians who have “a past with the church” to come out and get it sorted... so that forgiveness and wholeness might result. We are hoping this will allow God to work anew in our midst.



Carine & Mark – Although a little tired and possibly in need of a break we soldier on. Carine has taken back teaching Anaëlle. She had kept her time table open to kick off with the HIV/AIDS project counselling which to date has not started. This has been [a little] frustrating. Mark continues to prepare bible studies and classes, he also spends time hanging out with and counselling youth. In fact it seems that we have a real place now with the youth here and our views and opinions are often sort after. On a more personal side : lets face it, we could do with getting out together a little more often as we see a lot of each other but lack in “quality time”.

Anaëlle & Joshua – The kids are healthy, full of life. Anaëlle full of knowledge and opinions, Joshua full of energy and discovery. Praise God for health and kids. Even if it's a lot of work.

Hélène – a young girl from Alsace came to teach CE2 to Anaëlle. She stayed with us for 6 months and Anaëlle was especially blessed with a fine teacher. We too were very blessed with a intelligent and peaceful presence around the SIM station. Hélène was also able to “have a ministry” around Fada area starting a choir, teaching Sunday school and organizing some children's work in the local protestant school. She is now safely back in France, you can pray she that she will successfully make it into a teacher training program in September. May God bless her.



Gilbert & Martine, John & Wendy – In November and December we were able to show our parents various aspects of our life and ministry in Burkina. Carine's parents came out first for a month followed by Mark's parents for a similar length. We were able to overlap everyone in Ouagadougou for just under a week. It felt like a real family reunion and the kids obviously had a wild time of it. It was important for them both to renew and bond with their grandparents.

Prison Ministries – Mark was able to help out [local] Pastor Rufus with some prison ministry. Several events were programmed and carried out. H el ene's youth choir also came to sing for the prisoners. We preached the gospel and served some meals. We also gave out some tokens of thanks for those who support the ministry. May Rufus be encouraged in his ongoing ministry.

Youth group – We meet every Friday night for bible study. We are still looking at Jesus' teachings in the gospels. We are encouraged to see the youth gradually leaving a rather legalistic faith based on fear towards a more graceful faith based on God's love. We are especially thankful for the regular attendees in whom we can see real interest towards growth in Jesus. May they be blessed and find encouragement.



Alpha group – The group has been ticking over nicely. Some of the course has had to be adapted to the Burkinab e mind set. Questions like does God exist are just not as relevant. The answer being : How can God not exist? We have been able to get away on an Alpha Holy Spirit weekend. 240Km away from Fada. The time was much appreciated by all and great interest for the Spirit was voiced. Please pray for us all. We can see the group slowly becoming hungry for the gospel and we would like to give them as much as possible in Jesus.

Bible school class – Mark has now taught overviews of Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and 1&2 Thessalonians. The students have sat through 2 exams. The NT survey is now over but more work will be needed in the Bible School. For a start the new admin. block needs wiring. So it will be back to DIY for a little.

Counselling – A few situations here have brought Carine and I to another sort of work. We have been meeting with a “young couple in crisis” trying to get them to talk and



sort through a few issues. We have also been counselling a young man who is getting married this month and trying to do marriage prepare him and his wife to be. Another [Muslim] youth has asked us to participate in and pray at his marriage ceremony. Please pray for wisdom and availability on our part.

Deaf club? – We have slowly developed a relationship with a young girl [age 11] from our church who has a serious hearing impediment. She has just started attending a state run school for the disabled. She has also invested and made herself welcome at ours, sometimes turning up at 06:30 in the morning. She has also introduced us to most of her deaf friends who also turn up on our doorstep. Please pray we will find a way of sharing the gospel and entertaining our guests without being overrun.



Nissan Hardbody – Some friends from World Concern have moved back to the US definitely now. They have graciously postponed selling their car so that we can use it until June. What a blessing this is. Praise God for them and for the car. May God keep us safe on the roads and help us serve others with this blessing.

Looking forward – Our return from mission will probably be in July 2009. Yes almost two years already. We are not sure what awaits us in France. Please pray that we will find our way. Right now we are considering setting up again in the Grenoble area, finding a roof and a job or two and schools for the children. It is worth noting that we are not writing off more mission work, but the truth is, we do not know what God has in stall for us.