



ACTS MINISTRY – Burkina Faso

“Providing love and hope for mother and child”

News from Burkina

“Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited and redeemed his people. He has sent us a mighty Savior from the royal line of his servant David, just as he promised through his holy prophets long ago. Now we will be saved from our enemies and from all who hate us.” Luke 1:68-71

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas and the New Year, we would like to express our deep appreciation for our faithful partners. Without you, we could not have accomplished all that we have in the past year.



As Executive Director Joanna Ilboudo says, **“Together we follow the Lord’s commandment, ‘Love your neighbour.’ Women and children are drawn to the Lord Jesus and find he cares for them.”**

“With your help and encouragement we are building the Kingdom of God in Burkina Faso. The local church is built up through planned community development that brings spiritual, economic, social and physical relief to the rural poor. Widows and orphans are empowered for a better future.”

- With your help more than 750 orphans were fed and received education, both formal and non-formal and Speed School.



During 2008 through ACTS Speed School program more than 750 children in remote villages were able to attend school.

- The first phases of construction for the Ellel Medical Center will be ready for use after the first of the year. This will be the only affordable medical facility of its kind in Burkina Faso.
- About 4,000 women in various villages were empowered through our Saving for Change project.



The Saving for Change program will reach more women in more villages during 2009

- Each month, an average of 300 widows attended prayer meetings and benefited from donations of food. Many were restored physically with medical treatment from the dispensary and their spiritual lives were enriched through prayer time and bible teaching.



Pastor Kaboré and his family live near the ACTS Center and provide spiritual guidance to ACTS orphans and village women.

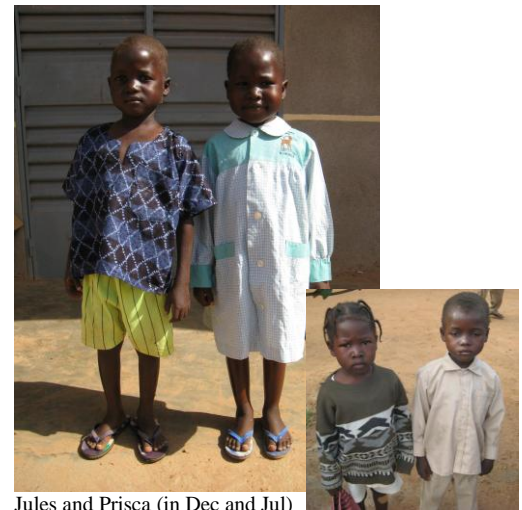
- Through ACTS Ministry more than 50 young men and women are employed and are able to care themselves and their families.



Clothing and other items made by women in the ACTS vocational sewing program were sold at the National Women's Forum in December.

We come to the end of a productive year and growth for the Kingdom of God. Many orphans and widows have come to know the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. For this we praise God for his faithfulness in giving us open doors of ministry opportunities.

We would be grateful to you for your prayers for wisdom. We want to be able to care for orphans like Jules who came to the ACTS Center suffering from acute malnutrition. We want to give him and the other children a chance to live productive and healthy lives.



Jules and Prisca (in Dec and Jul)

We are also grateful for the Lord's favor upon Joanna Ilboudo and the work of ACTS among the poor. On December 9, Joanna was recognized for her work for the poor of Burkina Faso. President Blaise Compaore personally gave her an honorary title of *Chevalier de l'ordre mérite Bukinabè* and awarded her a medal for her meritorious service for the poor of Burkina Faso.



Joanna shown during the ceremony at the Presidential Palace on December 9. She is walking to receive her honorary title and medal.



After the ceremony Joanna and her husband, Pastor Florent Ilboudo, celebrated at home with friends and family.



Joanna and members of the ACTS staff gathered the next day. They want you to know they appreciate your assistance. Without your prayers and gifts, the award would not have been possible.

Joanna has a message for you. She says,
“Please consider the medal I received as a sign of your partnership with ACTS.”

Without your help, the recognition for my work with the poor would not have been possible. Thank you for your faithful love gifts that bring glory to our Heavenly Father!”

Additional ways you can help.

- If you are looking for a unique gift idea for Christmas, we have a few items made by women and orphans in our vocational program.

Thinking **green**? We have reusable shopping bags made by widows.

We also have items hand loomed by widows such as place mats and table runners. There are tie-dyed table cloths and napkins for sale.

Besides providing a unique gift, your purchase would provide money for the vocational teaching program.

If you are interested in purchasing, write to:
actsministry05@sbcglobal.net

- Sign up with “Good Search” on the Internet and choose ACTS Ministry, Wheaton, IL as your designated charity. Their link:
www.goodsearch.com

We have an agreement with “Good Search” and they will send contributions to ACTS Ministry if you use them for your Internet searches.

- Check our website for more information about current projects and events.
www.acts-burkina.org

Few people in the world today are exempt from financial stresses. We thank you for your sacrificial giving and ask God to provide for your own needs as you assist the poor.

We face a new year with new challenges, but with the Lord’s help we will prevail.

Every blessing to all in the wonderful name of the Jesus Christ, our Master and Savior!

Yours very sincerely,

Executive Director

Joanna Ilboudo
Chevalier de l’ordre mérite Bukinabè

and

US President
Sharyl J. Sieh

ACTS Ministry is a not-for-profit ministry in USA.
All gifts are tax deductible.
In Burkina Faso ACTS Ministry is a registered NGO (non-governmental agency).

December 2008