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Missionaries to **BURKINA FASO**

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Greetings to our partners in bringing the Gospel of Jesus to the unreached Muslim Jula people. We are grateful to the Lord for your partnership in this ministry, and we pray that He is blessing you in your walk with Jesus and in your ministry in His name.

It's truly hard to believe that it has been almost a year since our arrival in Burkina Faso in mid-October of 2008. And we're equally amazed at how much the Lord has accomplished in this time:

- We are becoming comfortable functioning in the Jula language (though we have a looong way to go). I (Andrew) have made a good start in learning the Creation story in Jula as an initial effort in the Chronological Bible Storying ministry.
- Through a Jula brother in Christ named Jakaridja, God has led our team into good relationships with people in his village and with the leadership of two other villages.
- By means of other contacts, God has developed friendships with the head Jula Imam of the town of Banfora, where we live, and other Jula families in town.
- We have been privileged to participate (as much as feasible while still remaining faithful to God and His Word) in the Ramadan fast and post-Ramadan celebrations with our Jula friends.
- In experimenting in our yard with various grasses, crops, shrubs, and trees of potential usefulness in the Community Health Evangelism ministry, we have identified several – including chaya, moringa, glyricidia, jack bean, and alfalfa – that warrant further investigation.
- I have been able to begin the process of interacting with village farmers to learn the whats, hows, and whys of their production methods, so he can gain an understanding of what works, what doesn't, why this is the case, and how to best integrate new approaches in the Community Health Evangelism ministry.
- God has provided the opportunity to establish a Small Farm Resource Center in the village of Kangoura (more about this later).

And we're having fun doing it!!



FAMILY NEWS

The Lord has been taking extremely good care of us. For the most part, we have been healthy and enjoying ourselves (though at present Nicole is experiencing the family's first case of malaria since our arrival). For the past couple of months, we've been

taking a break from homeschooling, as Anderson and Nicole have been taking French lessons from a local schoolteacher who has been on summer vacation. Homeschooling started again in late September. We now have two dogs (Socks and Daisy) and three cats (Stormy, Nimrod, and Snowbell – poor guy). Pulcherie has been finding more and more ways to provide good food. Her latest effort has been making beef sausage (we're abstaining from pork in deference to Muslim sensibilities here). I have designed, and had a local welder construct, an exercise machine.

It looks a bit like something from the Inquisition, but it's surprisingly functional.



SMALL FARM RESOURCE CENTER

We are very excited about the possibilities for the Small Farm Resource Center. We have just received permission from the land chief of the village of Kangoura to use a tract of land there for this purpose. Kangoura is centrally located among the villages we currently



visit, as well as other villages where we hope to establish relationships in the future.

What do we envision for the Small Farm Resource Center? We plan to build a mud-brick house (typical of Jula villages) so we can stay there for days at a time. From this location (about a 90-minute drive from our house), we will be able to visit the surrounding villages more often, observe and participate in more aspects of villagers' daily life activities, and accelerate our Jula language and culture learning.

The Center will function as an experiment station, where we can try various appropriate technologies, alternative methods of raising livestock, and the production of existing crops, shrubs, and trees for livestock production and human nutrition, or the introduction of new ones. We will be able to determine what works and what doesn't, without any risk of loss to Jula farmers. They will be able to see the successes and elect to try them out on their own farms.

We want to involve Jula villagers in every aspect of the activities on the farm, from planning the layout ... to working out methods to build appropriate technologies with locally available materials ... to their input on what they see as the most important needs for improving their production ... to methods of using animal traction, establishing plants and protecting them from roving livestock, etc.

We also plan to involve local and regional government officials to help us in planning the activities of the farm, and gaining knowledge of prevalent animal health and production problems and the availability of vaccines, medicines, and feed supplements.

"Farm field days" will be held, where farmers in the region will be invited to come to the Center to observe and discuss those efforts that have proven successful at the Center, and to exchange ideas on a range of topics.

The Small Farm Resource Center can serve to:

- 1) Actively demonstrate to the people our concern for their wellbeing.
- 2) Identify projects that can be integrated into the Community Health Evangelism ministry.
- 3) Expand our network of relationships with Jula villages in the region, resulting in invitations to come and minister in their communities.
- 4) Provide a natural forum for introducing biblical teachings that can lead to opportunities for Chronological Bible Storying.

It will take a substantial financial investment to establish the Center, and a modest ongoing investment once it's established. If you would like to be involved in this effort, I invite you to contact me (burkinagordons@gmail.com) or the CMF home office (PO Box 501020, Indianapolis, IN 46250; 317.578.2700; missions@cmfi.org).

Thank you for your prayers on behalf of our family, the team, the Jula people, and God's glory among the Jula. Please continue to pray!

May the Lord bless you richly.

Andrew

Andrew for the Gordon family



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