

Nash News February 2019

On Saturday 12th January I arrived in Burkina to warnings about recent terrorist activity in the Gaoua area where we were intending to go. I was due to travel down with some others from Myra's Wells as their guide and interpreter. Three pumps had been installed in villages and we were going to see them and investigate other villages where requests for a well had been received. As I know the area and the pastors, I was left to arrange the program, including accommodation and meals. I checked the security situation with several sources and on the Sunday evening we decided we would travel down together but check in with the Commandant of the Gendarmerie to let them know of our presence and plans.

On the Tuesday we saw two of the three villages where wells had been installed. It was great to see how it helped people and how appreciative they were. We also went to Ouadarador: pastor Jacques had called me on many occasions during last year to remind me of the need. We had an informative time asking questions about the water situation in the village. There was one pump in the village but with really long queues so people also went to the river to draw water; it seemed we couldn't see it because the vehicle couldn't get to the river. Then someone suggested we all go down on motorbikes. On the way we passed people walking or on bikes carrying containers - obviously going to collect water. That made me realise how long the queues at the pump must be because the river was 2km away and the pump only 1km from the part of the village requesting help. To my shock the river was dry; there were a number of holes that had been dug to get the water below but on closer



investigation we saw that even these were dry. So I asked where the water was. We had to go another 100m to find a large but dirty stagnant pool from which a number of people were drawing water. Later a boy dipped his bucket into the water to take a drink which shocked all the visitors as it really was not fit for drinking. We left Wednesday but not before greeting the pastors' conference, informing them about Myra's Wells and that survey questionnaires were available if anyone wanted to apply for a well, which would be considered according to the need. We then went to Bobo

and Banfora to see a couple of villages where there was a need for a clean water supply and to again avail ourselves of as much information as possible to assess which villages be chosen to receive a well. On the way back to Ouaga on Friday we visited another well. All in all it was an informative and rewarding trip.

Now I had about 12 days left for my own ministry but because of the high level of terrorist activity I decided it was probably better to stay in the capital although I did manage a day trip the following Saturday to Yako to talk to an IFES coordinator, to see if we could get the Christian Union students involved in Bible study next year. I left 40 copies of the course to be used with the Christian Union committees who would then have experience before using it with the whole group next year. I was also able to talk with the new committee there (Yako is in their first year of running the courses) to see how the Bible course ministry was going and if there were any things I could help with.

My remaining time went quickly. I used it to prepare for my return in March when the courses should be coming to an end and we can start holding the awards ceremonies. I got a bale of children's T shirts

(370) and had them washed and ironed before putting them in their cellophane wrappers (see photo). I got hold of Children's New Testaments (156) which included the last two boxes of one that has a cover that looks like a Koran. This will be particularly helpful in the strongly Muslim areas, particularly if the child who receives it is a Muslim. I also got 93 Bibles that are used to thank those who give time to teaching and marking the courses along with 75 printed T shirts with our Explorers' Club Logo on. In areas where they have already received the shirts and Bibles in previous years, we are giving them a radio which can also play the scriptures. Each radio will come with 3 NT's already recorded in languages appropriate to the area of the country where they are. I got the first 80 radios and 75 SD cards. Marc Koussoube is busy getting the languages downloaded on to the SD cards and the accompanying guides photocopied. I went to the AoG printing press to get another 20,000 certificates printed which I trust will last for two years as we now have only a few hundred left.



I also managed to get out to Gampela, 12km away, where a Bible school has kindly stored all my excess material which I don't have enough room for in Ouaga. To my surprise, apart from 20 boxes of John's Gospels, all my other boxes of Christian tracts, kindly supplied by Every Home Crusade, have all now



been distributed except one remaining box. I have an Explorers' Club course 2, which continues on from the first course, to help new Christians become established in their faith. I took these back to my office and realised I needed a bookshelf to store them for ease of access. God provided this when I spotted an unused bookshelf in the storage shed just outside my office (see photo). This will greatly help in the use of these courses as when they were hidden away I wasn't encouraging their use.

Pray that a Love, Dating and Marriage course, that is really interesting and also very helpful to Christians to help them walk in obedience to God in the area of their sexuality, would be widely used by Christian youth groups in the capital. I gave several youth leaders the course so they can study the material; I look forward to meeting with them later to see how I can help them use it with their youth departments. Pray also that next year I can work with school Christian Unions in the provision of Bible courses to help in the discipleship of students.

Blessings Jeremy

46 Hunt Road, Christchurch, BH23 3BW, UK

Burkina Faso is very much in need of prayer. The prime minister and all his cabinet resigned last week and this was linked with the terrorist threat: over 300 in the security forces have been killed in the couple of years they have been in cabinet. 14 Provinces are in a State of Emergency. There are over 80,000 internally displaced persons and 1,000 Schools have closed meaning upwards of 146,000 are without access to education. The terrorist activity brings fear and greatly hinders the gospel.

Pray for the many children doing our after school Explorers' Bible Club courses. Pray God would open their hearts and minds to understanding His love for them and that many will come to faith.