



Agri-Stewards June Update - Burkina Faso

June 2015

Well I'm back from another trip and contemplating how to put in to words all that I have witnessed in the past two weeks. It was a joy having some traveling companions from my home church, the Markle Church of Christ. We went to Burkina Faso to work alongside Tom Brane, a Markle Timothy, and his wife Suja.



A new challenge that I faced on this trip was having Muslims in attendance. In fact, two-thirds of the class were Muslim and one-third were Christians. Many prayers were lifted, not only from supporters in the US but also my Kenyan brothers and sisters as well, that our message would be well received. Your prayers were felt and God came through in a big way. Our message appeared to be well received, and I look forward to getting follow up reports from Tom in the coming months to see how their crops fare and how lives are changed.

Let me introduce you to some of the participants. First off is a lady named Delphine. Half of our class, over 30 participants, was in attendance because she had extended an invitation to them, she also loaned us a 10 meter by 10 meter plot of land for a demonstration garden. Delphine is Suja's language partner and is a very outgoing, energetic lady. She is well respected as a leader in the community and is a woman who can quickly take over the attention of a room when she walks in. Tom was a little nervous because Delphine said if the people did not learn anything new on the first day that none of them may show up on the second day. Praise God everyone came back on the second day. Delphine also scratched out an area the size of our demonstration garden with her hoe and said she was going to plant right next to us with her own method so we can have a side by side trial. Pray for God to reveal Himself to her and her community in a big way through these plots!



Another individual at the training was Mr. Nalcuma. It appeared God was working on his life as well. He is a Muslim and two of his sons have become Christians recently. One of them had been asked to leave the home. Both of these sons were at the class and their relationship with their father appeared to be reconciled. In fact, Mr. Nalcuma offered each of the boys some of his land for this upcoming growing season. It was also reported by one of the sons that his father called the farm manager who was preparing to plant 40 hectares by plowing to stop the plow. Tom is planning a follow up visit soon to learn more how the training has impacted Mr. Nalcuma. Another interesting development was watching Mr. Nalcuma strike up a friendship with a Christian Pastor named Mr. Ousman. They ate lunch together each day of the training and exchanged phone numbers as well. Please keep Mr. Nalcuma in your



prayers, (John 16:7-11) that he would listen to the invitation being extended to him to know the Savior.



The final man I want to introduce you to is a believer named Seydou. He is a young man who lives with his grandmother that Tom has developed a friendship with. The second demonstration garden was planted next to his house and he has been placed in charge of its care. We stressed how carefully people would be examining our garden to see if these new methods worked or not. We also stressed how important good watering and weeding would be to be successful. When we planted the garden we were unable to water because the water had been turned off in this part of town. We learned the next day that Seydou had learned the water was turned back on at midnight, he got in line at 1 AM and four hours later filled his container at 5 AM. By 6:30 AM the garden was watered and he had gathered some additional

mulch to fill in some holes that were left the day before to give our garden 100% coverage. Please thank God for Seydou's faithfulness and pray for wisdom and strength to see the garden through to completion.

God's handiwork was on display all through Burkina Faso as Tom allowed the team to see hippos and crocodiles in their natural habitat. We were also blessed to be able to visit one of the most beautiful waterfalls I have ever seen. It was at this stop that reality hit me. We saw evidence of feathers and blood on the rocks where animists

had come to present sacrifices to the spirit world. How sad it was for me to think how they could stand in front of the beauty of God and not see Him. Please pray for the lost in Burkina Faso that their eyes may be opened to see the Creator and be able to worship Him! Please keep Tom and Suja in your prayers as God leads them into the next phase of their ministry.

