



The Mango Tree (De Mangoboom)

NEWSLETTER 20 – JUNE 2017

Dear friends of the Mango Tree,

This letter arrives at your doorstep just in time before your summer vacation. We hope you'll enjoy that break. But first, here's the latest news from Burkina Faso.

SUMMER VACATION

The children from the orphanage are nearing the end of their school year. Just as the children here look forward to this break, so do the children in Burkina Faso. Vacation for them means they won't need to visit school for several weeks, and they get a chance to play more, help doing the laundry and help with the vegetable garden. They are going to enjoy it!

The childrens' school results vary. Some enjoy school and this shows in their grades. The children that received the highest grades have been rewarded with a place on a picture, and we, in turn, provide them with a place of honour in this newsletter:



Some of the other children, however, are not really able to keep up. This remains an area of attention. We continue to be in dialogue with the school to see how we can help them. After all, it's education that provides children with a chance to escape poverty. There's one

child in the orphanage who has outgrown the school; we are going to place him in a professional educational track next season.

By the way, while we in Europe look forward to nice weather in the summer break, the people in Burkina Faso look forward to rain: their rainy season runs from June until September. The farmers have sown their fields and hope to get plenty of rain. Be assured that whenever the rain does come in Burkina Faso, it comes with buckets. The streets in the city get flooded, and many roads can not be travelled any more.



LIFE AS USUAL

Life goes on. The children get their daily three meals, and the menu follows a fixed order:

-  Monday: macaroni
-  Tuesday: rice with sauce
-  Wednesday: beans
-  Thursday: rice 'soubala' (a vegetable mixture)
-  Friday: rice with peanut sauce
-  Saturday: 'to' (maize porridge with sauce)
-  Sunday: 'riz gras' (rice with a different kind of vegetable sauce)

The children regularly get to eat eggs and fruit: mango, banana or papaya—whatever is available.



Not everything is as predictable as the food, however. We recently got a worrisome e-mail from some of the helpers telling us that several children had been caught with slingholds. They were using it to fire pebbles through class... The orphanage helpers were very concerned that *their* children apparently were capable of doing such a thing.

We wouldn't want to approve of the children's behaviour, of course, but it is good to see how creative they have been in combining branches and other materials to build their slingholds. This just shows who they are: children.



Here's one more news item you might be interested to hear. The past few weeks saw a number of snakes being discovered on the orphanage's grounds. Where did they come from? A thorough search revealed the wood storage, which is next to the sleeping hall of the four-year-olds, as containing several snake nests. The wood storage has now been relocated...

NAOMI NEWS

Our previous newsletter reported that Naomi, a little baby whose mother had died, had come to live at the orphanage. She did not make it, unfortunately. She died on May 17th.

Naomi took to the hospital for a considerably long time. She was still weak and vulnerable when she was released from hospital. She threw up often and did not grow well. Then she got fever again. We took her to the hospital, but the doctors there couldn't figure out what the source of her illness was. That's when she died.



The orphanage's staff has gone out of their way to help Naomi, but it was to no avail. One might say that Naomi died because she was born in poverty. The doctors could not determine the correct diagnosis. In the end, she was unable to hold on to life. Both the children and the staff feel defeated by this blow. We will not forget her.

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

- 🌿 We are grateful that our foundation can offer some help to the children, and that the orphanage can literally and metaphorically be an 'oasis' where the children receive the love and attention they need.
- 🌿 Please pray that the children will enjoy a nice vacation, that they get a chance to rest and gain new energy for the next school year.
- 🌿 Please pray for protection for the children and the staff against diseases and accidents. "Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain" (Psalm 127:1).

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN PRAYER AND IN GIVING

On behalf of the children in Ipelcé.