



Mali Chronicles

Sep 2005 – Jan 2006

Sep 2003	Move to Bamako.
Nov 2003	My neighbor Simeon saved.
Nov 2004	Bible School launched. CAM launched. Simeon baptized.
Dec 2004	First party for street kids.
March 2005	Accepted by HIM.
Summer 2005	Accepted by FFMI. Seybou saved.
Sep 2005	Weekly program for street kids starts. Street kid Sekouba saved. Sekouba moves in.
Nov 2005	US team visits to evangelize. Government recognition. First anniversary. 4 new believers baptized.
Dec 2005	Affordable car found (not yet purchased).
Jan 2006	Land found.



Street Children

Coming back from my summer travels, we started our weekly program for street kids, as the Lord had clearly spoken. One of the first kids getting saved was Sekouba. Sekouba had been sent away by his family two years earlier. As with all

the street kids in Mali, his family sent him to a Muslim "marabout" (teacher and more), where he had to memorize the Quran, beg for money, and was beaten, hardly receiving any food to eat. After one year, he couldn't take it any longer and ran away. By the time we found him - or he found Jesus - he had been on the street by himself for a year. He is 14 years old. Shortly after his salvation, I offered him to sleep on our property, and he then soon moved into a tent. Sekouba is growing in the Lord, as well as learning to read and write, working with me nearly every day.



First Anniversary

On Nov 27th we celebrated our first anniversary as a church. Many people came for this occasion, as we looked back and forward with the Lord, baptizing 4 people that had all come to the Lord in the previous months. After the service, we had a banquet and time of fellowship.



One of the people being baptized was Paul, who is now a valuable member of our team and student in the Bible School. Sekouba was also baptized.

Seybou & His Family

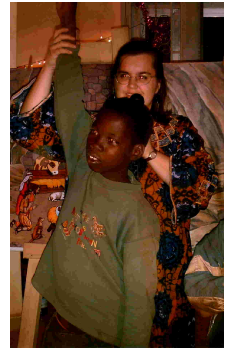


Another person who was baptized was Seybou. Seybou has been my house guard since Nov 2004, keeping watch every night. Over time the Christian movies, services, and learning to read with Christian materials made more and more of an impact until he gave his life to the Lord in the summer of 2005. In Sep we went to get his family from their village, to reunite them - his wife Fanta, his 4-year-old Hama and his new baby girl (8 months)

Sarata. Hama was born crippled, and we're all believing for his healing! Sarata is visibly malnourished and we're working on helping her. Fanta gave her life to the Lord in January - so, praise God, now they are a Christian family!

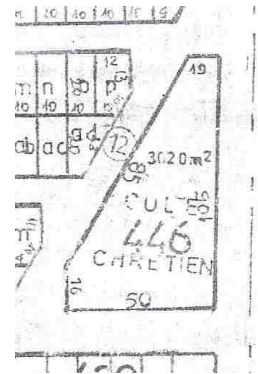
Christmas Party For Street Kids

Over 100 kids – mostly street children – showed up to celebrate Christmas with us. We started with a game they all loved, and then we sang some Christian songs with actions, before I started teaching them. I shared the Christmas story with them, as well as the Father's love for each one of them. I was amazed at the anointing that was present as the Lord put the words in my mouth. Many prayed to become children of God. Then I told them I'd like to pray for those needing physical healing to come forward. The first one came – and was healed! We shared the testimony. The next one came – healed! Again, the testimony was shared. Nearly every kid was healed! Like the one on the picture who couldn't lift his arm before.



Property

In November we received our official papers – *Centre Apostolique Malien* (CAM) now officially is a church in Mali. That gives us many advantages – we don't pay customs on packages or a car, AND the government gives us a property for free! All over town there are plots for churches (and mosques, markets etc.). And praise God, we have found ours! It is perfectly located, on the edge of town, in a poor neighborhood, on the foot of a hill, near a primary school owned by my former director at the High School the first two years!!! It is 3020 m² or 32,500 sq.ft or 0.7 acres. In my mind, I already see it with all the buildings done!



It will have one big building – church/school room on the ground floor, the rooms for the kids above, and on top the rooms for the workers. Then there will be 3 little houses for me, the guard's family and another family moving with us. There'll also be room for mango trees and planting vegetables. We went there to pray over the property and area, climbing up the hill. The picture shows me extending my hands in prayer towards it.

Vehicle

After two years of prayer, we've now found an old, red minibus for an affordable price. The owner is still making last repairs and waiting for the arrival of the seats he'd had taken out before shipping it. Now we'll not only be able to run all errands, but to go back and forth to our property!



Construction

We're now looking for an architect to draw up the plans, so we can start construction as soon as possible. I don't know how God will do it, but I trust that He will provide all the finances necessary for this huge task! Our goal is to move within the year.

PRAY FOR

- v Purchase of car/truck.
- v Paperwork to acquire our land.
- v Construction on our new property.
- v Finances for day-to-day operations and construction.
- v Church & team members and wisdom & strength for myself.

Please visit my website for more details, pictures, my blog, and to subscribe to my email newsletter.

Dr. Claudia R. Wintoch is a member of HIM and FFMI, and sent out and supported by Vienna Christian Center in Austria as well as Christ Triumphant Church in Lee's Summit (Kansas City).

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