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07/2006

Mali Chronicles

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	Government recognition. First anniversary. 4 new believers baptized.
Jan 2006	Land found.
March 2006	NGO in Germany partners with us.
April 2006	Finally a car! 2 nd kid moves in.
May 2006	3 rd kid moves in. Paul moves in to help. Our school starts. Ministry on new property starts.
July 2006	4 th kid moves in.
Oct 2006	Construction starts.

Street Children

In Dec 2004 we did our first Christmas Party for Street Kids, proclaiming the gospel, feeding and clothing them, and we have done these parties several times since, with more than 100 kids in attendance, always seeing miracles of salvation and physical healing. In September 2005 we started ministering to the street kids on a weekly basis – playing games, singing &



dancing, memorizing verses, teaching them and praying for them, and eating together.

Church Plant

In September of 2003 I moved to Mali by faith, after 8 years of preparation, to step into God's call for the sake of the 4th poorest nation in the world – Mali. For two years I taught German at a small local High School, and one year into that, *Centre Apostolique Malien* was born. On November 28, 2004, we had our very first church service, baptizing two young men, one of whom – Simeon – had gotten saved two months after my arrival in Mali and become a team member. A year later, on our first anniversary, 4 people were baptized, who had all come to the Lord during the previous months.



One of them was Paul (picture), who is now in our Bible School and my most valuable team member. Another one was Sekouba, a former street kid, who's become like a son to me. The third one was Seybou (picture), my night guard, who turned to the Lord through our weekly services, movie nights, and literacy class. He lives on the property with me, and last September we also brought his family from the village to be with us. While Seybou takes care of everything around the house, Fanta



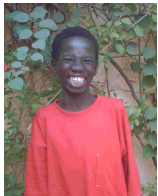
(saved this Jan) cooks and cleans. They have two children – Sarata (1) and Hama (5). Hama was born crippled, but he recently started a weekly therapy to learn to walk anyway, while we keep praying and believing for his healing.



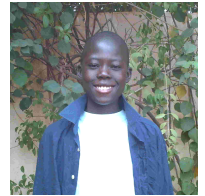
Every week children give their lives to the Lord, and yet they have to return to the street – for now.

One of the first kids getting saved was Sekouba. He had been sent away by his family two years earlier. As with many 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 ran away. By the time he came to us, he had been on the street by himself for a year and was 14 years old. Shortly after his salvation, I offered him to sleep on our property, and he gladly stayed. Today, Sekouba loves God and plays the drums for His glory. He has a huge heart of compassion for people, and especially to see other street kids saved and set free.





In April, Abdias was the second street kid to stay with us, soon followed by Fousseni. Abdias (13, left) only spent a month on the street. He was beaten for years, and haunted by demons. One of the first things we did was to deliver him, and he's been a happy kid since. Fousseni (15, right) had also known only beatings and food deprivation all his life, and God specifically pointed him out to us to take him in. Salim (16) fled his father who wanted to kill him, and found refuge with us.



In May they all moved into the house with me, together with Paul, for the summer.

Bunkbeds were made, sponsors were found (thanks to a German NGO taking care of that), and life changed all over again. They received toothbrushes & paste, pajamas, shoes, towels, and other stuff, had a bed and a roof over their head, and good food every day. But most of all, they now had a family, in heaven and on earth, knowing they were loved. In May I also started teaching



them every morning from 9-1 – Bible, Reading, Writing, French and Math.

God's Provision

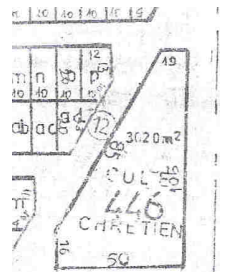
In May, Abdias had a serious accident that took us to two hospitals, but God used it to connect us with Dr. Alain. Dr. Alain is a Christian doctor, who is now available to us 24/7, as well as taking care of vaccinations and regular medical tests.



In April, after two and a half years of praying, I finally got into our own car! How would I have gone to the hospital without it, how would I have...? I thank God every time I drive for this great blessing.

In November *Centre Apostolique Malien* (CAM) received its official papers. This September we'll be most likely accepted into the Malian Association of Churches.

In January, we found our PROMISED LAND – land that the government is giving us for free, because every church is eligible to receive land. It is located on the edge of town and 3000 m² or 32,500 sq.ft big. The paperwork is in progress, and we're planning to start construction work in October, after the rainy season. We've just found an architect in Atlanta who's agreed to take on this project and help any way he can. We now need an experienced construction manager in Mali who will be in constant communication with the architect, and who will be responsible to be entrusted with the construction itself. This is a huge and daunting task only the Lord can accomplish – financially and in every other way. With my eyes of faith, I can see it all done already. There will be a big building for the church, school, and rooms for our kids, the



many street children needing a home, a playground, vegetable garden, fruit trees, a well, and three little houses. We've started going on our property on a weekly basis to pray and minister to our neighbors. Close to 100 kids gather when we come, eager to play games and sing songs with us, and to hear about Jesus. The land is rocky and desert-like, but it will be an oasis in a dry and thirst land.



Help Needed

Do you have any construction skills? Can you help with the kids? Would you sow your money? We need everyone and everything! Come for two weeks and build an orphanage/church with your own hands! Or come and love on those kids who have never known love.

You will never be the same again!

For more information and pictures and my (nearly daily) blog, go to www.healing2thenations.net

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

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