Sponsorship from Both Sides
Bountiful Blessings

I have now seen our sponsorship program at work on both the giving and the receiving end. I praise God for these opportunities! On the giving side, our students at St. Agnes Academy in Dalton Massachusetts, USA where I taught, have been raising money since 2005 to sponsor two deserving students in Yako. While I enjoyed sponsorship, I never fully grasped the impact this support had on children in Burkina until I came to the receiving end! Living here in Burkina Faso, I have learned firsthand that sponsorship truly does change lives in profound and meaningful ways. I have seen the impact on present students as well as those who benefited from the program in the past. Previous students that I have met are now leading productive lives with bright futures as a result of a superior education.

For instance, Marcel studies law at the University of Ouagadougou. Rachel works as a midwife. Evance works as an administrative assistant to Mike Riddering, director of Les Ailes de Refuge in Yako. Igor graduated at the very top of his class and clings to his goal of becoming a doctor. Delphine holds the title of teacher and recently married. Beatrice, who came to Sheltering Wings as a child with a dream to become a nurse, is now enrolled in a comprehensive program of study equipping her with advanced skills in diagnosing illness, prescribing and administering appropriate treatments. Prior to this, she served as a nurse at our clinic in Yako for years.

Public education is not free and many families cannot afford to send their children to school. In most cases only boys are educated. Sponsorship can help a girl receive an education when otherwise she may not ever go to school. Girls are expected to care for younger siblings, fetch water from the well, work in the fields and assume a myriad of other chores if not in school. Sponsoring a girl gives her the opportunity to learn reading, writing and French. This education opens doors to professional careers such as nursing, teaching, and social work.

Sponsoring a child, benefits both the child and the family! The child receives school supplies, school uniforms and more. Attendance at school often means students will be given lunch. Otherwise, many children here receive only one meal a day. Needed medical care is also a part of the program. For example, Siaka, a young sponsored boy in Kimini, recently received a medical evaluation, diagnosis and prescription to treat malaria and a fungal infection--all at no cost to his grandfather who is raising him. Families of sponsored children receive a donation of grain, oil and soap twice a year. Sponsors enjoy peace, knowing a child in need is receiving medical care, education, encouragement and prayer. As a sponsor you are encouraged to correspond with your child. Children delight in hearing from you and often tuck away letters and photos as little treasures from someone who thinks they are special. Updates and progress reports are sent to sponsors so you can see how they perform in school and pray and encourage them accordingly. ~ Linda Wilk

Open Doors
Walking Through in Faith

We see firsthand the benefits and the open doors for those who receive a formal education here in Burkina. Who knows what success stories are yet to be written? Perhaps, one for Aminata Ouattara:

My name is Aminata and I am 10 years old. Have you ever heard of Kangala? This small, remote village is in southern Burkina Faso where I live with my mother and four younger siblings. My father died and my mother works hard to take care of us. Our house is a mud brick dwelling without electricity or running water. Every day we go to the well to get water for our family. I am in 4th grade. Classes are held in a small single room mud brick building, 75 or more students crowd together to learn. I feel privileged to be one of those students because many girls do not get to go to school. They must stay home to help care for younger siblings or work in the fields. My mother will have three daughters in school next year and the expense is a financial burden on our family. Please consider becoming my sponsor to help pay for my education, school supplies and medical care as needed.

To become Aminata’s sponsor please contact Sheltering Wings at 314-635-6316.
They say time flies when you're having fun. Linda and I have been having great fun! Some days it seems we have barely started our day and already we are planning for dinner! Everyday we have in Kimini is a great joy for us, as well as a privilege. We are so blessed! Because Linda and I are so proud of our little village of Kimini, and because the signs announcing the village were rusted so badly that you could not read them, we decided to paint the signs. We asked for permission from our village leaders before painting the signs and then had lots of interest from the adults and the children during the painting process. In Kimini the Lord’s work continues moving forward:

As for the construction of the clinic, bricks have been made and are piled in stacks around the area where construction will begin soon. Hard rain and wind destroyed about 250 bricks that had not yet dried, creating some delay. The men, now, are cutting and splicing the iron which will be used for part of the foundation and also for reinforcement of the support poles in the walls. The metal doors and windows have been ordered and we anticipate delivery in time for installation.

Daily, hands on ministry ranges from helping the youngest to the wisest: we continue to meet little ones with malnutrition. Ema is our focus this month. Ema’s mother is not well mentally and virtually lives on the streets. Grandmother is caring for Ema but does not have money for milk and food. With a sponsor we will be able to provide milk and nourishment for Ema. We also hosted our initial widow distribution for our first sponsored widow in Kimini. Oh the joy of seeing her smile!!! Thank you for your persistence in prayers encouragement and financial support!! Your support does not go unnoticed. ~ Ruth Cox

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**Kimini Update**

**Ministry on the Move**

Kimini’s sponsorship program, is in its initial stages of development and already has more than forty eight children enrolled! More children are being added every week! We are so thankful for six new sponsors this month! The need here is great and the Lord continues to provide wonderful new sponsors for the children of Kimini and our surrounding villages.

We are very pleased to introduce Bintou, a hearing impaired seven year old girl from Kimini. This young girl with special needs, will go to school for the first time! Being a girl and having special needs makes her trip to school nothing short of a miracle here in Burkina. Thanks to caring sponsors, she will enroll in a special residential school for the hearing impaired. The school is new. Everything is freshly painted with new equipment in each room. Bintou will live in a dorm room on campus during the school year and will return home to the village during holidays and for summer vacation. Please join her sponsors in praising God and praying for her as she makes this change!! A whole new world has opened up to a child who otherwise would have been left behind. We eagerly wait to see what God will do in her life and in the life of her family.

Finally, we praise God for two committed Pastors that help care for the children in the sponsorship program: Pastor Paul in Wangolo and Pastor Joel in Niangoloko have responded to the burden the Lord has placed on their hearts to reach the children in their villages with the Gospel message.

Please join us in praying for our Pastors as they take the lead in this ministry. A huge part of our success occurs when we are able to encourage and equip the local leaders to be advocates for their people. God is at work in mighty ways and we are grateful to be a part of His work here in Kimini. ~ Linda Wilk

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Then the Lord said to him, “who has made man’s mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I the LORD? Exodus 4:11 (ESV)
Sponsorship Program

A Tool in the Hands of Our Redeemer

We are in “Back-to-School” mode now. In the U.S. kids get long lists of supplies and head to the store with their parents to pick out folders, pens, pencils, crayons, paper, scissors, glue and many other things. I remember this being such an exciting time as I was growing up and then again when my children were younger. Here in Burkina, “Back-to-School” time can be a very difficult time for families. We have numerous people coming to see if there is anything we can do to help them send their children to school because they just don’t have the fees to pay tuition. Hard decisions within families are made regarding which of their children will go to school and which of them will not.

Our sponsorship program was developed to help meet the needs of disadvantaged children who could not attend school without assistance: children who have lost one or both parents, or whose families are extremely poor. Giving a child the opportunity to learn gives them bigger opportunities later in life and can help break the cycle of poverty in their family. We know so many children still waiting for a sponsor. Some of these children have been waiting longer than a year. A large number of children will be taken out of school this year because they have completed primary school and the fees for secondary school are out of their reach.

For the children, this program gives them hope. To know that there is someone outside of their family who cares about them and wants to see them succeed is a tremendous blessing and encouragement. For parents the certainty that their children will have the opportunity to go to school gives them peace.

We cannot thank you enough for your ongoing support of our sponsorship program. So often we get caught up in the busyness of life. For many, the program becomes a monthly withdrawal or an automatic deductions or simply the swipe of a pen as monthly bills get paid. We too get caught up in the busyness of doing ministry. I praise God for special moments and sweet reminders that cause us to pause. As I pause and reflect, I wanted to send you just two quick but beautiful examples of how the Lord uses this program to expand His kingdom and reveal His love to others.

Here is Nassiratou Zida receiving a gift from her sponsor. Nassiratou comes from a Muslim family. The love she receives through her relationship with her sponsor is one of the reasons her family allows her to continue receiving a Christian education.

Here is Cyrille Yelkouni and his family receiving a gift from Cyrille’s sponsor. Cyrille lost his father this year to an unknown illness. His father was a young man so this was quite a shock to the family. Because Cyrille’s father is Muslim, the custom is that the father’s family owns everything. The day Cyrille’s father died his uncles came and took everything, leaving his mother, brother and sister with nothing, even taking every bit of food. Cyrille’s sponsor gave a generous gift that will enable us to supply the family with food and other necessities over the next 6 months. God's timing is perfect and He knows what his children need. Thank you for your continued obedience and response. We see firsthand how the Lord uses your gifts to further His kingdom!! May we never lose sight of how powerful your contributions are to the children of Yako!! ~ Amy Ridge

Therefore my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58 (ESV)

A Matheny update

A Call to Prayer

Philip reports that Banfora has been selected as their future location in Burkina. They will work in Orphan & Vulnerable Children Care alongside Social Action and the local churches. They will train and equip the community to open their homes to at-risk children. It will probably also include a milk program. They left Ouagadougou for a trip to Germany and will spend six weeks in the U.S., where they will visit their supporting church congregations and spread the word of this final decision. Please pray with them for a language helper for Sara to learn Jula when they return. Philip will homeschool during Sara’s training. Also, with a home in Banfora to return to, they kids will shop to get goods for their new rooms. We look forward to a happy return to the states and a happy send-off to a specific direction in Africa to all! Keep those prayers coming!!! ~ A message from the Board

The LORD is near the all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. Psalm 145:18 (ESV)
Demonstrating the love of Jesus to a hurting world

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Mission Possible Truck
Essential tools for ministry

With that said, we are faced with an urgent need. The need is for a replacement vehicle for Ruth Cox and Linda Wilk. The Mitsubishi car they are currently using is frequently breaking down, requiring much down-time for repairs. To quote Linda Wilk: “Yesterday we went to Yako to visit a different orphanage only to have the car overheat on the way home. So we sat by the side of the road until the engine cooled enough to be able to add water and get back on the road. We did make it safely back to OUAGA after adding 3 3/4 liters of water. Our work lately has been impacted by car problems. We had to spend a week in Bobo getting repairs.” From e-mail August 3: “Ruth lives frugally, always making choices and always putting the needs of the people we serve first. She is a wise woman and knows when it is time to think of safety and effectiveness.” The decision to replace the car did not come easily but it is the best and most prudent choice.

The hope is to replace their current Mitsubishi car with a Toyota 4x4 4 door truck. This will give them a reliable truck that they need, better able to handle the road conditions and climate and capable of transporting fellow workers, villagers, and needed materials.

We have set a goal of $40,000 to cover the cost of the truck, shipping, taxes and tariffs and needed accessories, (truck bed cap) and replacement parts, (air and oil filters). Our hope is to have the funds in hand in order to purchase and deliver the truck by October 1st.

Again, thank you for your past support, your continued prayers and your prayerful consideration of donating to this urgent need. You can make your donation for this specific urgent need by going to http://www.sheltering-wings.org/, and on the home page you will find a link titled, ‘Mission Possible Truck’ for use by Ruth and Linda.

God Bless,

Bruce York, President

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, February 28th, 2015
6th Annual Trivia Night for West Africa - Sheltering Wings
Mark your calendars
Register on line at www.sheltering-wings.org