

Clean Water

The hook on the block and tackle (rated for 3/8 inch cable - and 3 tons lifting power) snapped before even budging the foundation ring as it was being lifted to lower into the well. After a new hook was manufactured, the four inch I beam bent as the ring was lowered. Then the new tube bought to pump the well dry was too weak and just flattened. Heavier tubing was found, but the pump wasn't



*Working as a team; each with his role.
 (Norm turned the I beam so it looks like it is
 supposed to be bent!)*

strong enough for the 36 foot lift. Finally a mill pump was borrowed (requiring a day and six men to haul it from the field) and the well was pumped dry so that Norm could start laying bricks for the cribbing to line the well.

His trials weren't over. When he started digging out the mud at the bottom of the well, hoping the cribbing would sink, instead it started cracking. The work was tedious; bricks and mortar being lowered in a bucket, no where to stand except for on the bricks he had already placed, no place to put his tools, the only way to exit the well by climbing a rope. Three days and fifteen donkey carts full of rocks later, (about 5 quarter-ton pick-up truck loads) the area that had

caved in behind the cribbing was finally filled. This was needed to prevent the ground around the well from sinking.

Fixing the well was an experience of learning to work together and depending on each other. The men from the courtyard helped Norm find the pumps and tubing (and arranged for payment) and provided the man-power. Norm had the expertise and finances to undertake the job. Despite the frustrations, delays and panic over how little time we had to work, Norm finished the well one week before we left Burkina.

In the end, everyone was pleased. Norm completed a physically taxing job he had been unable to do for three years because of sickness. The courtyard family now has an unlimited supply of clean water which will eliminate many stomach ailments.



*A glass of China green tea being lowered to
 Norm working in the bottom of the well.
 You can't work without tea!*

Home for Easter

Sunday, April 17: Mothers and children filled the airport, anxiously waiting in line to get checked in, clear the police check and get on the plane. Nadine whimpered on my back. It was 113 degrees or more and it was her naptime. The departure time had been changed to leave two hours earlier to accommodate the 7 pm curfew, newly reinstated because of the violence which had erupted from the military the day before. I had thrown our things into our suitcases and was praying that our bags weren't too heavy and that we could get on the plane. We had arrived in Ouaga Saturday after having to stay Friday night in Bobo because of the military hijacking cars, looting stores and gas stations. Buses had stopped running. The buses started again Saturday morning, but when we arrived in Ouaga they stopped on the outskirts of the city and we had to find a taxi to go the rest of the way. On the way, we saw that many buildings had been broken into and burned. We also saw the burnt shell of a government official's car on the road. The military was protesting because their housing allowance had been cut.

We made the flight out of Ouaga only to find that our tickets in Paris had been changed to the following day. It took several hours to straighten out but, we were able to board our originally scheduled flight. Unbelievably, we made our ninety minute international connection in Minneapolis, getting through customs with all our baggage. We arrived in Winnipeg only 30 minutes late!

We made it home on time to celebrate Easter with family. Jesus is alive! He is risen indeed.



Nadine dyeing Easter eggs with grandma.

Praise Items

- Our welcome back to Canada has been wonderful. Upon arrival we were loaned a car and car seat. We set up 'home' in a trailer next to my sister's house and Nadine has been showered with toys and clothes. Thank you.
- We have been on the road visiting churches since May. These visits have been energizing and positive. Nadine learned that every church has a well stocked nursery and she enjoys exploring new places and meeting new friends. New words: snow, boot, slide, swing, book, toy, cookie, cracker
- We have all been in good health.

Addresses

The opportunity to align with God's work in Burkina Faso is made possible through the prayer and financial support you give. Your notes of encouragement and gifts of finances are greatly appreciated. If you would like to express your support of the ministry in Burkina Faso with a donation, you may send it to:

Mennonite Mission Network
1601 W. Beardsley Ave
PO Box 370
Elkhart, IN 46515-0347

Prayer Concerns

- Pray for a lasting solution which will bring peace in Burkina Faso. The violence which started in April in Ouaga (the capital) has now spread to Bobo-Dioulasso (rather close to Tin). It seems as if discontent has been simmering for a long time and now is boiling over.
- Pray for continued safety on the road and in the air as we continue visiting churches, renewing contacts and establishing new ones.
- We are planning to study French in Sherbrooke, Quebec at the school 'Parole de Vie' (Word of Life, Bethel) for two semesters from Sept. to April 2012. Pray that these arrangements and that our transportation can be worked out efficiently and wisely.

Until August 2011 please send personal mail to:

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