

buildings. One of the buildings is a maternity department with four beds, one crib and a delivery room with fifty year old equipment. The dust is an extra. In the main building is the Pharmacy, the doctors office and two consultation rooms. The Pharmacy shelves were 3/4 empty.

We knew that today would be a long day, so we brought our lunch with us. ATN was taking names while a local hospital worker was collecting \$0.20 per patient. This money was collected because the village people were very proud. We were over come by the number of patients. This time the doctors worked on the hospital porch in the shade. The village was already crowded with people when we arrived. They already started a long patient list. The village chief came to greet us first. The chief has three wives, but he likes the color and energy of the American ladies. Maybe he could have number four wife and be an American. We had a light breeze but it was still hot, around 90 degrees Fahrenheit.

A sixty year old man came into the clinic with fourteen children and was complaining about being dysfunctional. Both doctors will tell you that the complaints start from the head, neck, back, heart pain, stomach and then legs. There are a few patients that came to be seen at the clinic just to get something. By mid-morning we were really starting to get hot, and the crowd was getting larger. We stopped for lunch around noon which consisted of a sandwich, fruit and water. Then back to work. Between the village chief watching us, chasing away the kids and keeping the doctors busy was a hand full. Everyone had their pictures taken with the village counsels.

We did see 300 patients today and the money that was collected was then given back to the village council to help the hospital and part for helping the

Youth For Christ work.

March 15, 1997 - Saturday

Today we are using John Pierres church for the clinic. It is small with a thatched overhang on the side of the building for Sunday school. We took names outside while the patients waited in lines. Mali is such a poor country with garbage all over the city. They did have garbage pick-up service, which is a donkey pulling a small cart. The families are very large and keep growing, they really need birth control. Even though we only saw sixty five adults, there must have been at least 100 children. One of the little girls always stayed by our side and hugged us so tight. Her mother said that she loves white people. All the people are so friendly.

We had to stop right at noon, eat lunch and get ready for a youth rally. John Pierre organized a monthly youth rally for all the villages it started at 3:00 PM. Pastor John Pierre has done great work in spreading the word of the Lord. He loves the young people and even sings their kind of music with them. Several songs were sung with lot of rhythm and praise music. The first message was given by Pastor John Pierre and translated into the Baum, the dialect in Mali. Joshua 1:1-5 was the scripture reading.

I want to encourage you as leaders . Even if you have to go through the desert, like Moses. There is a promise land and it needs to be conquered. Moses is done. Joshua you must take them over and go ahead with the brothers. They are fearful, but God promised and He is great. I am with you. Lord you are Great. Without him we can do nothing. No one can move ahead without God. Today God is using young people to move the church ahead. What are we going to do about it? Accept what God has for you. Give yourself to the Lord. Move ahead. Fight for Youth For Christ in this area, and in the schools. Lets go conquer. These YFC Americans have come for the dispensary to help you. Let's all work together.

Pastor Michel prayer was followed by the local youth group consisting of fourteen children. They sang a couple of songs and then a skit was next. After our group was introduced we sang "Majesty" and then the fellows, Franklin, Joseph, Robert and Mike, sang " This is the Day". Pastor Michel then preached the second message. He had everyone shack hands with ten people. Everyone sat down when the music stopped. Pastor Michel then spoke from Acts 6:26. Stand up on

March 16, 1997 - Sunday

Because of the delay in the bags we were not able to go to the next village for a full day. We decided to work on Sunday at John Pierre's other church. The decision was made to hold the clinic tomorrow from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM, then hold church until 9:45 AM. First we sung several songs. I sat outside making a list of people to be seen. Franklin introduced the team, then John Pierre preached Mathews 6:1-5. There were 125 people inside while another 75 sat outside listening. Most of the people came for the clinic, but the Lord use this situation to reach the Muslim people that would never hear the gospel. Most families that were attending the clinic had six to nine children. After church we treated several hundred more patients, until it got to dark. We saw 450 patients all together. We were so hot and tired from today's events, that we just dropped in our foot steps.

March 17, 1997 - Monday

We were up at 5:30 AM as usual, To hurry up and get ready and then wait for the transportation. There is no phone service to call if you are late and of course no car phones!!! The truck was finally here around 8:00 AM. We stopped by the pastors town to drop of some more medicine before heading to the airport. We had to be at the airport three hours before our flight in order to check in all of the bags. On the way to Mali from the United States, our check-in bags could weigh 70 lbs. each. Now, going from Mali to Burkina Faso, the check-in bags can only weigh 35 lbs. This took a lot of re-adjusting the bags. The airline gave us free passes good for a free dinner, that never has happened before. Curry chicken served over couscous was served for dinner, but

the service was very slow. We tried to sleep on the plane, but we were all anxious to see our friends in Burkina Faso.

We arrived around 5:00 PM and the temperature was still very hot. We had to walk half way across the Tarmac because the plane doesn't go all the way to the terminal . Our friends were there waiting to greet us. The feeling was over whelming. For the next four to five days, we were staying at two separate houses. Franklin, Mike, Robert and I are staying at Pastor Pauls. Pastor Paul and a friend of his have just finished one month of evangelism to different villages through out Burkina Faso. In the last week alone they had 140 saved. One day they had decided to go into Togo, but they ran into a small problem because Mark did not have a Visa. Pastor Paul had to sign a release form, taking all responsibility for Mark. When the custom officer found out their business in the country, he said that they could proceed with out a Visa only if they gave him a Bible. Praise the Lord.

The rest of the team that was staying at Pastor Michels. Everyone came over to Pastor Pauls for an African Dinner. We ate bananas that were wrapped in ham, dipped in a thick batter, and grilled, lettuce salad and soda pop. Bedtime came early because of our long hot tiring day.

March 18, 1997 - Tuesday

Once again, this morning it was hurry and get ready to wait around. The customs officer was not used to American name brand medicine, so it took him a long time to cross check each one. This meant that we didn't have any medicine bags for today. We decided to use the day to do some banking and visiting the Grande Marche, open air market. There were many different levels of

vendors yelling at you to come see their goods. Everyone has to experience this at least once.

Lunch was at the American Club. Everyone is trying to get used to the 100-110 degrees temperature during the day. This made relaxing by the pool feel great. Dinners are held at Pastor Michels. Today our feast consisted of Dinty Moores dinners. We told Franklin that we were going to trade the rest of the dinners at the market. After dinner we did a lot of singing. Eli lead the kids in African songs and movements. He would make a great preacher in the United States. Right now his ministry consists of taking the Jesus film and a singing crew out to the villages. He then preaches the word of the Lord. He earns around \$82.00 a month.

March 19, 1997 - Wednesday

We were up at 5:30 AM and ate breakfast around 6:30 AM. Then waited again for customs to clear the bags. Robert, Mike, Pastor Michel and Pastor Paul went to open the rest of the locked bags for them. They wanted to see in all of the bags. The bags finally arrived at the school around 10:00 AM. We decided to hold clinic for a few hours. We set up the clinic at the Youth For Christ school for the next couple days. There is also some medicine located in storage, under the thick dust. We were only able to treat sixty patients that morning. It sure was hot in the clinic room. We had Marilyn and Joyce handling all the medicine, this included separating and putting them away on the shelves. Bev and Robert had their own medical station and translator. We also had a native taking names at the door so we can keep order. Lunch is always fruit and sandwiches.

This evening we were all invited out to dinner by Celestine and Win. Around the beginning of next week,

we will be moving over to Celestine and Wins guest house. This way we can all be together in better living quarters. Celestine cooked fried chicken, African style, over rice with peas and scalloped potatoes. There was ice cream cake for desert. It was so heavenly, all of us sitting around in the star lite night, sharing conversation with one another. There was a vendor man that came over to sell his wares. A lot of the ladies did buy some goods. Win picked up all of the tab (bill) as a thank you to us for coming to his country and helping the people. He is so on fire to do work for the Lord. Win is also the highway commissioner.

March 20, 1997 - Thursday

Today, clinic is at the school again. This time I carry the keys to the medicine room. There are about fifty people waiting for us to begin. Today started out slowly, but it gave us a chance to package up salt and baby powdered formula. The salt is for the patients with goiter problems, because of the lack of salt in their diet. Today we really have luxury in the clinic with have a fan and a radio. It almost felt like home.

We brought glasses with us, and know have the first, "Burkina D.O.C." There wasn't anything to test the people with their new glasses, so we found French gospel tracts. This way they can read the Bible message.

Today we treated seventy-five patients. Mike did eye wash and wounds in between helping Franklin, Marilyn and Joyce.

Mike also climbed the sixty foot radio tower to add an additional twenty feet at the top. This way the gospel will reach more people. After that we broke for lunch, which was McDonalds!! Yes, we ate French bread and summer sausage wrapped in McDonalds paper, so everyone doesn't get home sick. We really can relax at

the American club.

Robert, Franklin and I went to the airport to pick up Jackie Adside, Geoffrey Lie and Allisa Spotts. It's great having Geoffrey here. We have really been praying about the bags coming in through customs, because they contained some electric equipment and a radio transmitter. The Lord really answered our prayers and everything was cleared with customs. We all rode home in the open truck. Being the new one in the group, Geoff was really taking in all of the sites. There is a vendor that comes to the house for home shopping.

March 21, 1997 - Friday

The clinic is very swamped today. Just being here, really broke in Geoff fast, because he couldn't believe that there are still backwards places in the World. He enjoyed working with Uncle Robert, they make a very good team. I have to make sure that everyone drinks plenty of water, because of the heat.

There were some military and custom officers in the clinic today. Allisa gave them some glasses and a French tract. Little Ali is now helping us out. We even gave him his own scrub shirt. Ali is our African child that we support for school. We treated 225 patients today.

While waiting for Franklin, we played tapes of American children songs. Allisa, Bev and I were singing and doing some motions to the rhythm. We had so much fun, just like crazy Americans, even being so exhausted, beyond tired. A patient list for Saturday was already being started. Lunch was at Michels.

We have a nickname for Joyce and Marilyn (the medicine ladies). We called them the Golden Girls. Their names changed to the "Bag Ladies" when they were packaging the salt and baby formula.

March 22, 1997 - Saturday

Today was going to be crazy. When we arrived at the school, forty to fifty people were waiting. The routine was for a native person to take names and get everyone organized in a line. The next step was to unlock the medicine, haul it all out and put it all back on the shelves. Next is to rearrange the chairs and wooden benches for the doctor stations.

Today we had Matthew doing the glasses station and Germain doing the eye testing. What a full clinic we had. The Lord blessed us with all this medicine and we are passing it on. Today we had some severe cases come into the clinic. A one year old child with severe dehydration and malnutrition. The baby looked just like skin on bones, kind of like a premature size child in the United States. It made you want to cry.

By 10:30 AM, it felt as if it was 3:00 PM. The next heart break was a set of twins, three months old. One is very healthy while the other is very sick and probably won't make it. 30% of the children will not make to see their fifth birthday. A total of 175 patients were seen today by our medical staff.

We really needed the pool today. Dinner was Dinty Moores with pineapple. Most of the team went to Pastor Michel church for a youth conference. Robert and I stayed at home so I could practice the keyboard and shower while there was water. Tonight we were not bothered by the mice, just Allisa, Mike, Geoff and Franklin.

March 23, 1997 - Sunday

We got to sleep in until 6:30 AM, a whole extra hour. Breakfast was at 7:30 AM. Half of the team attended to Pastor Michels church while the other half

attended Pastor Pauls church.

The service followed the format below

- Congregation singing
- Prayer by Jackie Aside
- Choir, native song
- Youth choir
- Ladies choir, " I need thee every hour"
(The ladies were singing even with their babies on their backs.)
- Childrens choir
- Mens quartet
- Our group was introduced and sang; "His name is wonderful" and "This is the day"
- The young Burkina people sang; "This is the day"
(They really had all the rhythm and showed us up. We must have sounded like senior citizens.)
- The young people kneeled and prayed
- Everyone prayed out loud
- Then the little children went to their classes
- Franklin preached while Pastor Paul translated

We are in the flesh and spirit in the new family of God, one Lord, one faith. There are many tribes and many languages but we are all in the family of God. Eph 4:11 - We are going to finish our church building for Jesus Christ. The church is not just the building. Some think that they are not important, but that's not what God thinks. Everyone sings, prays and receives gifts from God. Let Jesus reign in your heart and in your family. If we don't live by his commandments, then we are living in darkness. God makes the light for us to follow. We are the children of God. Eph 4:15 tells the truth with love. Jesus is the lamp of God. You never see