

and the actual living of bush people. On the way to Bola in the open bed truck with twelve people and all our gear, it poured down rain. Besides that, the wipers on the truck didn't work. Monty, the driver, just took off the blade off the wiper arm and cleaned the window by hand when necessary. When we arrived in Bola there were no patients. We walked to the next straw hut and picked mangos from their tree. We had a mango feast. After ½ hour the pastor came and told us that the rain had scared the people home, but please wait. By 9:00 Am , we started treating patients. Our group also went to see Constantines farm and the irrigation system. This system was supplied Ray and Hilda Clendenan.

Pastor Marcel sent some little kids to the market to tell people that the doctors are here. By noon we had treated 167 patients. The new members of the YFC teaching team are with us today. What an eye full, they received.

On the way home we stopped at the native market. It was so unique and very interesting. Some ventured to taste the local barbeque. I just bought material. In the evening we relaxed.

One funny thing that happened in the clinic today. Geoff was explaining to a man that after he shower, then put this cream on his wound. I said to Geoff "He doesn't know that word, shower." We all started to laugh.

#### **April 2, 1997 - Wednesday**

Back to Bola Land. We knew that a lot of people would show up to be treated today, because there was no market. This villagers know our system now. When we arrived there was already around 200 people waiting in a line to be seen.

In 1995 we also held clinic in Bola for three

days. At that time we took a picture of three elders. I gave Pastor Marcel a copy of that picture. He started crying because two out of the three men have died. The picture was a great memorial.

This was a very busy morning. The village mayor, got word that the American doctors have been in the village since yesterday. He was upset, because we didn't get his permission first, we didn't know we had too. Pastor Marcel, Robert, Monty and Constantine went to visit the mayor. He wanted to know about the American medicine.

One of the patients that Bev had was so sad because she had six children and started crying. She said "We have to work so hard, the men don't help, and the food is not enough." That really hurt your heart. When we finally finished around noon, we had treated 293 people. We were so tired. The village ladies made us rice and sauce to show their thanks for our help. Before we left, we took a picture of Pastor Marcel with everyone in the group. He wants a copy for his church.

#### **April 3, 1997 - Thursday**

We arrived at the small village of Yaoglin around 7:30 AM and no one was there. Soon the pastor and his family came to see us. His three daughters sang for us. The youngest one had such a big smile and good rhythm. Patients started coming around 9:00 AM. Some of the problems that we encountered were; baby must vomit before wetting; child carried in with joint pain; thirteen children from the same father, but many wives; lifeless child dressed with too much clothing. Seventy-five percent of the babies do not wear diapers or under pants. The cloth that the mother uses to carry the baby on her back is used as a diaper. When the cloth gets wet then the mother moves it to a dry spot. The dispensary team is

getting very drained of energy.

The clinic is held in the smallest church we have ever seen. Once the local villagers started coming, we were very busy. This week we started giving every family a small bag of salt. There is a severe lack of iodine in the African diet. The lack of salt causes goiters for females. Salt is so prevalent in the outer villages, we brought a big bag with us. It was then dispersed in smaller bags containing 3/4 of a cup. Women were instructed to start using it in their cooking. We finished clinic around 11:30 AM. Today we treated 322 people.

Robert cooked stir fried vegetables for supper and even used Dinty Moore. Most of the team went to see the Jesus film. Around 10:00 PM John Paul came to our house and asked if Geoff would pray with him. John has no one and really came to love our team.

#### **April 4, 1997 - Friday**

One of the things that we have observed in Africa is the lack of affection among family members. Today we are at Sonra Village, using the Assemble of God Church. This is where Pastor Benjamin resides. The people started arriving slow and then around 8:00 AM the line steadily grew. Around 9:00 AM Robert operated on Theodor, to remove a cyst on his nose, while Dr. Geoff assisted. An ancient looking farmer came in with his chicle over his shoulder, wearing a ancient pointed hat. Geoff said "I better do good or he'll chop off my head off."

Today we treated 236 people. Half way home it started pouring down rain. Another Monsoon rain in the dry season. Everybody in the back of the truck was soaked. In fact it rained for four hours. Pastor Michel said that this is the first time that he could remember it

raining twice in March.

As we drove by one of the local lakes on the way home from the clinic, Franklin explained that when he and his family lived here, they held baptism services in that lake. They always had to have six-eight men with long poles in the water around them. This was to chase the crocodiles away during the services.

We relaxed in the afternoon because of the rain. In the evening was dinner out at the Was Club, traditional African food. We had a great time.

#### **April 5, 1997 - Saturday**

This is the last day of getting up early and the last clinic day. We all had fixed feelings about today. Clinic was held in the village of Pouki (Pov-ki). And they have a nice large church to use. The village is about a hour drive from town.

Today we were short of interpreters, so Geoff did the wound cleaning and Mike did eye washes. One diagnosis we noticed right away was the amount of people River Blindness. Another diagnosis was that their bodies felt dead. It was nice to see husbands and wives coming in to the clinic together. Also in this village is a nursing home like huts for handicapped. Plus a section for the so called demon possessed people. Some have chained themselves to trees. Robert preached to one of them. The pastors wives provided a Burkina style lunch of rice and sauce. That was so great.

Today we treated 239 people. Dinner was spiced Dinty Moore. In the evening several team members are speaking at different churches. Plus this week (Wednesday-Saturday), YFC was holding special leadership training classes for the bush pastors. They had 110 men in attendance. The teaching team that came into Burkina last, taught these classes.

**April 6, 1997 - Sunday**

Pastor Pauls church

9 AM-12 AM

Several groups from the church sang special numbers, then everyone prayed out loud. Several people gave their testimony. I had brought my keyboard with me from home. After the singing Pastor Paul called on me to say a few words. I said, "Because of our families love for you and your church, we want to present your church with this keyboard." The whole church went wild with shouting and clapping hands. Pastor Paul thanked me a million times and I almost cried.

Then Pastor Paul preached:

A spirit filled life is a full life. To be a disciple it will be hard. Hard like an exam. It is a sacrifice. Luke 14:26, Jesus gives us a condition. Do not leave the faith for an unbeliever partner. You can kill the body, but not the spirit. Luke 14:27, Carry your cross and follow me. Cross means death. Die in yourself. Jesus suffered and was crucified. Christian means you belong to Christ. If you do not suffer like Christ, you are not worthy to be called a Christian. I Cor. 4:9-13, Testify of your blessings and sufferings. You may be poor in your life, but rich in Christ. Don't wait for the devil. You are made in Christ image. II Cor. 8:2 says, to give, you will be blessed. Did you have a new birth? Will you suffer for God?

**April 7, 1997 - Monday**

Today we had no clinic, but were still up early. After breakfast we took the all remaining medicine to the

school dispensary. Plus, cleaned out the room, but after the next dust storm it will be covered with dust again. We explain the types of medicine to Francois, the school counselor. Last night and this afternoon we were busy packing our bags. Yes, we are anxious to get home to our families, but hate to leave the wonderful families and friends here. The temp. Today is at least 115 degrees. Our last dinner together in Burkina Faso was at the OK Hotel Compound. It has been a great and exciting time. Then we held hands and sang, "His Name is Wonderful." Saying good-bye to brothers and sisters in Christ, is so hard.

GOD BE WITH YOU TILL WE MEET AGAIN.

**NOTE:**

A Moslem does not take a shower or bath. They believe when they die, they have to jump over a body of water before going to heaven. The more water they use in a life time, the larger the body of water. If they can't jump it, they will go straight to Hell. So Moslems use very little water.

I was very touched by the following story. This puts our calling from God and mission to Africa in perspective.

On the street I saw a small girl,  
abandoned and helpless in a thin dress,  
with little hope of a decent meal. I  
became angry and said to God, "Why  
did you permit this? Why don't you do  
something about it?"

For a while God said nothing. That night  
he replied, I certainly did something  
about it,

I made you.

(Author Unknown)

