

Moore News

February 2012

Crocodiles trip

Makalondi is a small town, 60 miles southwest of Niamey, on the border with Burkina Faso. SIM's activities include a Youth Ministry Center offering a computer lab, tutoring, and other activities. Beki Rohan is an SIM missionary working with the youth and invited us to come down for a small sports camp with some of her kids. A total of 14 of us (including 3 girls) piled into a rented van for the drive down. (click on image to enlarge)



Our main goals for the trip were a chance to meet some other kids, pass on the knowledge and skills of softball, and build relationships.

We had two good sessions of practice, once in the afternoon, and then again the next morning (this was during the Christmas break). It was fun to watch some of the new kids go from figuring out how to put on the glove to actually making some plays. During the breaks we shared some life skills that can be learned from sports (i.e. focusing on your goals, working with each other, perseverance, etc.).

We had lots of 'flex' time, too, playing games and just interacting. In the evening we watched the movie, "Invictus" and talked a bit about relationships and forgiveness. (click on image to enlarge)



All the kids said they'd enjoy doing it again, and I know that Beki and her group had a good time, too, so we'll see if we can plan something again.

Literacy in the prison

In our last letter, Bonnie mentioned starting some literacy classes in the local prison (sorry, we're not allowed to take pictures). Since mid-December she has been going 3 mornings a week with another lady from our church, teaching reading in the local language (Zarma) to around a dozen teen-age boys.

She is finding many challenges! First of all, many of these kids have lived some pretty wild lives and haven't learned many basic social skills like getting along with each other and anger management. It is not unusual for little 'altercations' to break out because someone made fun of an inmate's efforts.

Though Bonnie and her team have permission (partnering with Prison Fellowship) to teach in the prison, it is not an 'official' program and the boys don't have to attend. So often the boys wander away to wash clothes (either for themselves or for the guards), make a meal, or watch TV. Or some just don't come at all, because they are older (19+) and don't want to be in the same class as the 12 year-olds (and younger sometimes).

Bonnie has learned already that they love to write (even if they don't understand what they write - its what many of them did before in the K*ranic schools), so she is doing more of that now and more of the kids are coming! PTL! Continue to pray that the Lord will give her even more creative ideas in knowing how best to teach these kids. And most of all, pray that these boys will come to experience God's Love as she and B*sa spend time with these young boys before, during and after class!

Ministering by Mentoring

Abe had polio as a child and as a result is crippled and walks with two crutches. He was trained by a local project to make nylon string chairs, and wanted to start his own little business to make and sell the chairs. He came and asked me for a loan (pretty regular occurrence in our world!), but during our chat, I realized he didn't really know much about how a business should operate. We spent several sessions talking about investments and savings, customer relations, business ethics and such. I gave him a much smaller amount of money than he initially asked for (my regular response!) and told him to be 'faithful in little' and see where that goes. I have no idea whether he will make a go of this business or not, but I hope I have at least planted some seeds and given him some things to think about it.

New Year's Eve tradition

A number of years ago, some SIM missionaries started a tradition of taking refreshments to some of the police stops around town during the holidays. This year, our family decided to help them, along with several youth from our church. So, on New Year's Eve, around 9pm, we took off in 3 vehicles to make our rounds. We had coffee, tea, and cakes, along with some Bible tracts, and the youth sang songs while others served the goodies. It can get quite cool at night in Dec/Jan, at least by our African blood, and so the hot drinks were greatly appreciated. Some took tracts, others refused, one guy really didn't want us to sing (singing is seen to be a very 'Christian' thing to do), but we shared the love

of Christ anyway, and hopefully left most of them with a good impression of Christians caring for others.

Thank you for your prayers

Well, that's all for now! We thank for your prayers and financial support that allows us to serve the Lord here in Niger! We really feel more than ever the need for your prayers as our work can be hard sometimes! And like all of us, we can get complacent at times and need to be reminded that our time is not our own and we need to keep on doing whatever it is the Lord has given us to do! So, thank you very much for all you do for us and God bless you in your ministries!

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Jonathan and Bonnie Moore
Serving with SIM Niger

jmoore@jbratmoore.net -or- jonathan.moore@sim.org