



## The Mango Tree (De Mangoboom)

# NEWSLETTER 24 – FEBRUARY 2018

Dear friends of the Mango Tree,

Thank you so much for your interest in the Mango Tree. We will gladly bring you up to date on the latest developments at the orphanage in Burkina Faso. We really hope that this bi-monthly newsletter makes you feel part of the work. We're in it together—for the benefit of the children!

### NEW BABIES

Our previous newsletter explained that we have been receiving quite a few new babies lately. Some say that orphanages are not needed anymore, since there will always be relatives to take care of children. But it really doesn't always go like that. Read on below to find out for yourself why...

One of our recent arrivals is Ilboudo. The little baby arrived in a bad condition. He had not gotten anything to drink for four days and was dirty. So why had no one taken care of him? This has to do with the widespread believe in Burkina Faso that young children are the cause of a lot of problems. The death of a young mother in giving birth is sometimes ascribed to the little baby. That's when relatives can just stand by and let a child die...



And what about Ghislaine, the daughter of a teenager-mother? At the time she was seven months old, her mother got pregnant again. The desperate mother tried to do an abortion by herself, but bled to death instead.

The family looked the other way, so there was no one to look after Ghislaine...



Poverty too can be one of the problems why babies become neglected. When a mother has died, there is no 'free' mother's milk. Lack of money means there's no milk at all. Baby milk in Burkina Faso is as expensive as it is here in the West, which means that most of the population just cannot afford it...

### STRIKE

There are many more challenges in Burkina Faso. The beginning of this month brought a surprise strike. This is not to say that strikes don't happen; they do. There have been strikes of schools, and of some government offices for example. But this was a novelty: healthcare on strike.

This meant that the local clinic closed its doors. Yet the clinic is the place we regularly visit with orphanage children when they turn ill. When we came there with some of our ill children, the doors remained closed for us: medical care was refused, since they were on strike...

What were our options? Well, we looked around in all kinds of places to find a nurse who would be willing to have a look at an ill little child. It took quite some negotiating...



## HAPPY

There is some good news too. The study room got redecorated not too long ago. It took a few paint brushes and a little bit of creativity, but then letters and drawings started to appear on the walls. Here's some of the result:



And one more picture to emphasize the fact that the children got new school uniforms:



## SHEEP

Three sheep have joined the centre recently. There's quite a bit of 'litter' in the garden (such as peanut litter), but this serves quite well as food for animals. We intend to sell the sheep later on. We'll see how it goes, but this may be a first step on the way to generate some income.



## ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

These last few weeks have again seen negative news reports on some aid organisations. We were really sad to learn of this. There's so much need, even if one only looks at Burkina Faso. So perhaps this is a good time to stress some facts on our foundation:

- 🌳 Our foundation gets the aid directly to the children. There are no in-betweens that take off anything.
- 🌳 Our foundation works with a very small group of our own local employees. We have strict rules to promote integrity in our contacts with one another. The children are safe with us.
- 🌳 Our finances are transparent and available from our site. The bookkeeping is checked annually by an external committee as well as by the foundation's supervisory board.
- 🌳 We don't have any 'orphanage tourism'. The welfare of a child is our main concern in whatever decisions are taken. We take care of the childrens' safety as good as possible.

## PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

- 🌳 We are really grateful that the children have the opportunity to visit the school. It's so good to see their eagerness to learn. We pray for good teachers, and that the children grow in knowledge/wisdom.
- 🌳 Please join us in lifting up the new babies in the orphanage. They have often made a sad and worrisome start. Pray that their time in the orphanage will be a blessing for them and that their lives develop positively.
- 🌳 Please pray for us, for our foundation, for all the volunteers and sponsors that are involved. We would really like to continue this important task, but we cannot do without prayers and financial support. Ultimately it's the Lord's blessings we look for.

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN PRAYER AND IN GIVING**

**On behalf of the children in Burkina Faso.**