



The Mango Tree (De Mangoboom)

NEWSLETTER 26 – JUNE 2018

Dear friends of the Mango Tree,

Thank you so much for your interest in the Mango Tree. With the holiday season approaching rapidly, we'd like to bring you up to date on the latest developments with our children in Burkina Faso.

SCHOOL YEAR

The school year is almost finished in Burkina Faso. The kids that visit the 'lyceum' (high school) have already started their summer break. The elementary school children wait until the end results become available.

How children perform at school differs greatly. The school is a huge challenge for some of the kids, while others pass without any problems. Wendpanga, a girl in the grade one, has achieved the highest marks of all the pupils at her level. This prompted a Canadian organization that supports the lyceum to award her with a prize: she received a bicycle. It's a great reward for a huge achievement. This will surely motivate her to continue!



One of our earlier newsletters reported on Ali who has been placed with a host family in the big city. His achievements at school have been so exceptional, that he has been invited to participate in a test aimed at the best school children of the city. We do not yet know the outcome, unfortunately...

VEGETABLE GARDEN

The vegetable garden has been used extensively over the past year. It has yielded great quantities of cabbage, eggplant and zucchini. The start of this year mainly saw the growing of onions. These have now been harvested and everything has been ploughed to be ready for fresh sowing.

The orphanage grounds also host a number of fruit trees, and these trees are doing better and better. There's bananas, papaya and, of course, mangos. We also have chickens (to take care of eggs and a bit of meat once in a while) as well as a few sheep. The latter are kept to see if raising and selling sheep is a way to earn money locally. Taking care of the grounds has become a considerable task for the guards. They work the grounds in their free hours and the children help them out.



OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

The beginning of this year was filled with sickness and problems. But we now seem to have passed this period. There was chickenpox going around and many children suffered from fever and diarrhoea. This is probably due to the fact that many live together in a relatively small environment. Infection from one to the other easily takes place. We have double checked the hygiene procedures once more and made a number of improvements.



The water supply has also caused problems in the last couple of months. The basin the water tower did not fill up to the level it should. We didn't find the cause of this, but the tower seems to have started working okay again. This is really weird...



SUMMER PROJECT: NEW BABY COTS

We would like to bring to your attention a new project: this summer we would like to collect funds to purchase new baby cots and beds for little toddlers.

The orphanage offers shelter for a relatively large amount of babies. The cots we now have are old, but they do their job. Yet there are a few problems. We've had a number of babies being very 'movable'. They move in all directions in their beds. Then there've been several toddlers attempting to escape from their beds when they wake up.



The beds we have, however, are not very safe. The distance between the bars is large enough for some children to try and squeeze their heads through them, but then they get stuck. We have taken provisional measures to remedy this particular problem, but they

have been to no avail up till now. This is why we decided that it would be better to switch to new and safer baby cots and toddler beds.

Two years ago we had an action to purchase new mattresses. The children are using them all the time, and they are still in an excellent condition. All the more reason to blatantly bring this new summer project to your attention. Should you want to contribute, please do so by stating 'baby cots' in the description of your gift.



PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

-  We are grateful for the 'long' holiday, offering a time for relaxation and rest. We are also grateful for the school performance of the children. Please pray for a good motivation to keep learning. And for good guidance in the new school year by the teachers?
-  Please continue to pray with us for the health of the children and employees.
-  We ask for your prayer for the project for new baby cots and toddler beds. We hope that the required money can come in quickly.

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

On behalf of the children in Burkina Faso.