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Have you been thinking – “hmmm, it’s been a while since I’ve heard from Lynn”? Indeed, it has. Honestly, I struggled getting a newsletter out because we went through a spell where all I could write was unpleasant and uninteresting – terrorists in Mali, run-ins with corruption, terminating employees for theft...! Those topics just don’t make good newsletter material. However, that season has passed and I am happy to say I can now write a newsletter which includes some uplifting news.

WEDKINGO HAS CLEAN WATER!

I’ll start by celebrating another successful well drill resulting in *CLEAN WATER* for the village of Wedkingo! Notice the photo of the vehicles – I marveled they made it all the way to Wedkingo much less managed



to drill for water; and yet, in just a couple days’ time, we had reason to celebrate. I’ll never forget the auction last year when a gentleman walked up and asked, “Can I buy you a well?”

Tripping over my words, I think I responded smoothly with something like, “But...uh...well...are you sure you have enough in your checking account?” Okay, not so smooth, and apparently he did have enough in his checking account! What does it cost to dig a well and install a pump? \$10,000! Clean water for our school and all the children and their families in Wedkingo – priceless!



MORE FROM WEDKINGO

The people of the village of Wedkingo are motivated! Let me explain. Before arriving at the decision to build a school in a village, we start by talking with the Chief of the village. We introduce the Child/Widow Sponsorship Program to make sure basic needs are met before even mentioning education. As we develop relationships, we get a sense of how willing the Chief and his people are to work with “the Christian white lady”, and a sense of their motivation to lift a hand towards development in their village. If all is well, we eventually progress to building a school which is a HUGE honor for a Chief and his village. However, we make it clear the shared responsibility must continue as we help them jump start small businesses in which the profits are divided between themselves and **their** BFO school. These businesses create development opportunities for the village and promote self-sufficiency. The village as a whole begins to provide the financial support necessary to maintain the school for the benefit of their children.

So, back to the motivated people – we had not even started planning small businesses with them yet when they came to me to say, “We all pitched in and gave some of our crop which we would like you to sell and use the money for the school!” I was touched and impressed. I didn’t have to push. They simply gave for the sake of their children. I pray it’s the start of a successful small business relationship *with* the people of Wedkingo, *for* the people of Wedkingo.



GOBILA KIDS ARE IN BUSINESS!

What do you think of our students' latest endeavor? **Paper Mache gift boxes!** This project started for the purpose of nurturing the creative ability in our students as well as to create items they could make which would generate a bit of income. Of course, it will also be a lesson in economics. On a very small scale, we'll encourage them to tithe, to give to others less fortunate than themselves and to budget and save for items they'd like for their classroom (such as the soccer ball they've been begging for). A group of widows made the soaps we put inside the boxes for a nice little gift item. I'll have more available when I'm home in 2014. In fact, if you think you'd be interested in hosting an **Aspire Home Party** in the spring of 2014, it's a great way to support the ministry. Other "Aspire" hand-



crafted items include aprons, purses, jewelry and more. The goal of our home parties is to introduce BFO to new faces and at the same time, proceeds from the hand-crafted items support the schools and provide a bonus to the artisans.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP US FILL A CONTAINER?

A couple years ago we filled a 40-ft container full of school supplies, clothes, food, my favorite cereals☺, and lots more. Those supplies have been depleted, so it's time to send another container. We would like to ask anyone who wants to participate to begin collecting and/or purchasing supplies from now until Nov/Dec. At that time, we'll either have a rented storage unit or the container itself, and will communicate scheduled drop-off dates and a couple locations so we can begin the packing process. We won't actually ship the container until I'm home next year, likely sometime in May, so we have a full year to pull this all together.

Dawn Ransdell is one of our volunteers who managed the inventory of the last container and has volunteered to do it again for us. This is no small task so many thanks to Dawn! She can be reached via email at dawn@bfoafrica.org. Attached you will find a starter list of the supplies we would like to collect. As the list grows and items come in, we will distribute it from time to time and post it on the website. In addition to supplies, we will need volunteers to inventory items, to shop for items that need to be purchased, and to help with packing. **PLEASE** let Dawn or I know if you would like to help in any way, or if you know someone who can help. In your network of friends and family, possibly you know someone we could contact for items or even discounts we might be able use. Thank you in advance!

SO, WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON?

As I write this letter, I'm still in the U.S. I will be returning to Burkina Faso on June 28th. One of the highlights of my stateside visit was the opportunity to visit an incredible organization called **Feed My Starving Children** (FMSC). They invited me to join them for their annual staff meeting and share the BFO ministry. I've mentioned FMSC in a previous newsletter as they are the ones who blessed us abundantly with three 40-ft containers of rice during last year's famine. It was fascinating to see them in action – 750,000 volunteers working together to provide millions of meals to nearly 70 countries! May the Lord continue to bless their ministry as they bless so many others around the world.

I've been able to spend quite a bit of time with **my brother David**. David is bi-polar, was living independently, and has suffered a severe relapse which now has him in a nursing home. We continue to ask for prayers. He is doing much better, he is in great hands, the doctors have not given up on him, and he is surrounded by lots of family and friends, so we simply trust the Lord knows what He's doing. **HIS WAYS ARE CLEARLY NOT OUR WAYS!** (Is 55:8).



This upcoming year, here are a few highlights of what we expect to accomplish:

- Add a classroom or two to the Wedkingo School and continue to enroll new students.
- Identify the 3rd village where we can begin the process of meeting with the Chief, implementing the Sponsorship Program, starting a preschool shelter, and if we get the "green light" from the Lord, building another school. We've been working with a potential village, but this year made the decision that this is not where the Lord would have us build because of too many red flags. What red flags? It's difficult to summarize and be discreet, but let's say a particular person seems overly impressed with his newly discovered powers of witchcraft and has, naively, pompously touted his ability to sway things his way if he doesn't like how things are going. Also, up to this point, the people have not pulled together or displayed motivation to work with us. The last thing I want to do is force my idea of a good thing on them. I do not mean this as criticism. They're just not ready, partially because the Chief is new in his role. We will continue to maintain the relationship with them and see where it leads in the future.
- Begin laying out plans for the new ministry center which we anticipate will include a training center so that others can benefit from hands-on training and see a model of true Christian education in action; housing for trainees and visitors; space for our children's/youth activities, and more.

As always THANK YOU for your support. This works because of all of you! Blessings, Lynn