

Testimony Dale: I made a confession of faith at church and was baptized when I was 12. At that point, I still did not completely want to give God control over my life. At age 14, I was at a youth retreat where the theme was Romans 7 & 8 (who's on the throne of your life, are you a carnal or spiritual person). At that point, I decided that I needed to surrender the throne of my life to Christ. I remember an amazing feeling that I couldn't explain. My second two years of college were much more difficult for me because I spent all of my time working on my studies. During that time I had many doubts & frustrations with my faith as I was challenged & didn't have time for personal devotions or Bible study. Since graduating, God has slowly rebuilt my faith & helped me to be closer to Him again as I have worked with Disciple/Evangelism, traveled overseas, & taken graduate classes.

Testimony Florence: When I was 5, I remember my parents reading the Crucifixion story to me from a Children's Living Bible. They explained to me that Jesus had undergone all that suffering because He loved me so much. I was overwhelmed by that love & wanted to show my gratitude & love back, so my parents led me through a prayer of salvation. I was baptized at the age of 8. At the age of 12 I had a sort of "rededication" experience as I had a better understanding of what it meant to completely give my life to God for His service. It was at this point that the call to serve in full-time ministry through missions was solidified in my heart. In high school I was heavily involved in the church youth group & continued a steady, but still "safe" spiritual growth. Some more difficult experiences in college served to help me "own" my faith, as well as deepen it & make it more "real." It is a daily walk through my imperfections in which I am convinced of one thing—He will never let me go!

Our Missionary Purpose

...is to make disciples of Jesus through the power & work of the Holy Spirit.

Our Mission

- Be Jesus' hands & feet in Burkina Faso by reaching new people with the gospel through our education, skills, & talents, empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- Share the Gospel with handicapped individuals & their families by developing the Projet Handicapes en Avant ministry.
- Enhance the ministry of SIM-Burkina to allow it to make full use of its resources through technical development & administrative work.
- Decrease poverty in eastern Burkina Faso through community development projects as a witness & demonstration of God's love.

Philosophy of Missions & Evangelism

We believe in a holistic approach to missions. Just as in the body metaphor given to us in 1 Corinthians 12, each person uses their God-given gifts to do their part to minister to the spiritual, physical & social needs of the world. All three of these basic human needs should be addressed together as part of ministry. Only the intentional effort of an interdisciplinary team can effectively & correctly address these three essential parts of ministry. In achieving our goal of interdisciplinary & holistic ministry, it is imperative to highlight the importance of partnering with our international brothers & sisters. An effective ministry must empower the people it serves to be involved in their own development. Essentially, a missionary should be striving to work himself out of his job. The end goal is for the church to be firmly established & to reach maturity as it sends its own missionaries into the world.

Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso is located in western/central Africa & is one of the world's poorest countries, with over 80% of the population relying on subsistence farming. The official language is French but is only spoken by 10% of the population (those with an education). Literacy is only 14%. Half of the country is Muslim, 30% classified as traditional ethnic (which includes animism, ancestor worship, & voodoo). The two main people groups are Gourma & Fulani, each having their own language. The Gourma people group is animistic & traditional. There is a rapidly growing church among this tribe. The Fulani tribe is Islamic. They are historically nomadic & very difficult to reach. There is a very small Fulani church in Burkina Faso (about 30 people), but the New Testament has now been translated into Fulfulde & the church is beginning to grow slowly.