



**and the
High Wycombe
Methodist Circuit**

**CHURCH
PARTNERSHIP
SCHEME**

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter which will bring you information about the project, news of forthcoming events across the Circuit and details of fund-raising to date.

For up to the minute news and information look at the Burkina Faso page on the Circuit Web Site at www.highwycombemethodist.org.uk/caid.php

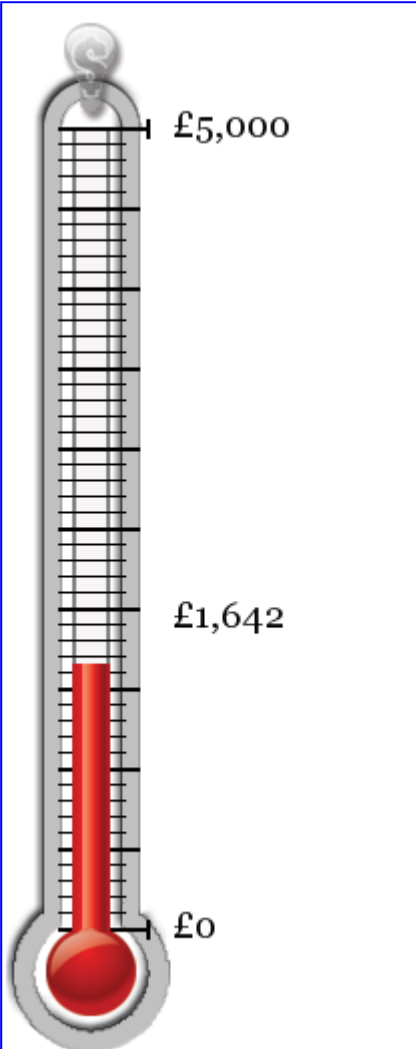
Already you have raised over £1,600 towards the target of £5,000. Well done to those who have already contributed.

Christian Aid has worked in partnership with **Re-seau MARP** for almost 20 years. They are experts in helping farming and fishing communities adapt to climate change. They also work on education, advocacy and campaigning.

Money Matters

By pledging to raise £5000 we will be contributing to Christian Aid's overall target of £199,000.

The project is due to finish in September 2011 and in order to pay for the materials and training money needs to reach Christian Aid by June 2011



Burkina Faso is the 7th poorest country in the world, and with much of its northern provinces based firmly in the Sahel its people are at the sharp end of climate change. These factors make it a current focus of European Commission support.



The territory now known as Burkina Faso was once ruled by the great Mossi Empire, an indigenous kingdom dating back to the 14th century and still in place when the French occupied the region in 1896. France granted self-governance to what was then known as Upper Volta in 1957 and full independence three years later, with Maurice Yaméogo as the first president.

Burkina Faso is a landlocked country, with Benin, Togo, Ghana and The Ivory Coast as its neighbours in the south, Mali in the north-west and Niger in the east. Burkina Faso covers an area of 274,200 sq km, about half the size of France, and lies just south of the Sahara desert, in an area known as the Sahel.

Climate zones range from the arid Sahelian in the north to the tropical savannah in the south. Average rainfall ranges from between 100cm in the south and 25cm in the north. Burkina Faso is undergoing severe changes in its previously predictable weather patterns. According to the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) rainfall in the Sahel decreased between 29-49 per cent from the first half to the second half of the 20th century. The Sahara is encroaching by 300m a year and the temperature is increasing, with a 0.4°C rise between 1981 and 1995.

Burkina Faso's 14 million people have an average age of 16.7 years old and life expectancy is around 52 years old.

Over 45 per cent of the population is estimated to live in poverty, and 71 per cent live on less than \$2 a day. Poverty is particularly prevalent in rural areas.

Please send any information about events you have run or forthcoming events to the project co-ordinator:

Angela Singleton

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Ideas for teaching youth and children's groups about the church's partnership with Christian Aid

The partnership with Christian Aid is something that can be shared with the whole church family. Below are a couple of ideas and activities to teach children about Burkina Faso and the project we are supporting. It could be used in children's groups on a Sunday or during mid-week clubs.

Where in the world? (10 minutes)

The Early Learning Centre's Globe Trotter's game is a fun way of introducing children to different parts of the world. It's like Twister but using a world map. If you have access to a copy of the game, play this and then use the map to show children where Burkina Faso is. Alternatively, complete a world-map jigsaw together or use a globe or an atlas to point the country out.

After looking at where Burkina Faso is, ask the children what they think the country might be like. Why do they think that? Source pictures of Burkina Faso in books and on the internet and talk to the children about what it might be like to live there. Write facts that you find out on pieces of paper or sticky notes.

Meet Maurice (5 minutes)

Use the information on page 3 to introduce the group to fourteen-year-old Maurice Bayili from Burkina Faso and talk about how he has been helped by Christian Aid. Explain how your church is helping to fund the project in Burkina Faso.

Hand out postcards to the children. What would they say or write to Maurice if they could? What would they like to ask him?

Comparing lives activity (5 minutes)

In what ways are the children's and Maurice's life the same and in what way are they different? As you read out these sentences about Maurice's life, the children should stand up if their life is different and sit down if it's the same.

Maurice is 14 years old. Maurice lives in a village.

Maurice is a shepherd. Maurice likes watching films.

Maurice lives with his cousins. There's not much rain where Maurice lives.

More activities

This is an excerpt from a Christian Aid leaflet. You can find the full version on the Circuit Web Site.

Planned activities

Naphill Methodist Church have a Tea & Coffee Tasting Event during Fairtrade Fortnight on Friday 5th March 10 -12noon.. Drink as much as you like for £2. Traidcraft Stall

Marlow are hosting a Barn Dance with Graham Luscombe on Saturday 6th March at 6.30p.m. Tickets and further details from Jackie Duxbury Tel:01628 481296

Wesley are "counting their blessings" during Lent and making a commitment to save a small amount of money each day.

Advance Notice

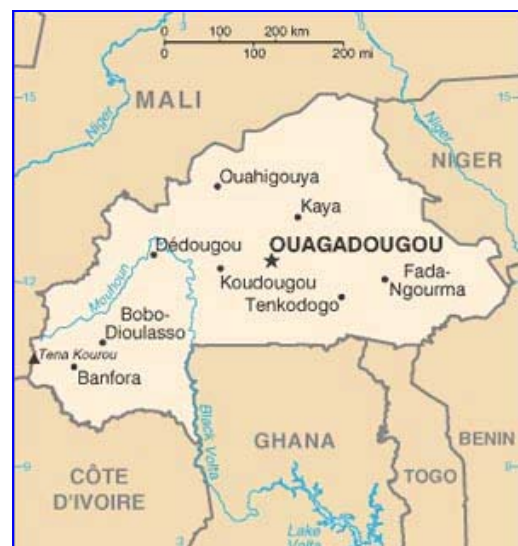
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Grand Auction of Promises

This will be in the early Autumn, the date will be announced in the next Newsletter and on the Circuit Web Site.

The auctioneer will be

Mr Howard Atkinson



Meet Maurice



Christian Aid/Sarah Filbey

Fact file

Name:	Maurice Bayili
Age:	14
Lives:	Zongou, Burkina Faso
Family:	Maurice lives with his uncle, aunt and cousins
School:	Maurice doesn't go to school. He is a shepherd and spends the day looking for good places for his sheep, goats and cows to find food.
Likes:	listening to the radio and watching films (which are sometimes shown in the village square where he lives)

The weather is changing where Maurice lives. It used to flood there during the rainy season but over the past few years it has rained less and less. This has caused big problems for the people who live in Zongou because many of them are farmers and they need the rain to grow their crops.

However, Christian Aid is giving money to an project in Burkina Faso that has been helping people in Zongou by teaching the farmers new ways of farming and helping villagers to build dams and water pumps so that they can have water. Your church, together with Christian Aid, is helping to fund this work and helping Maurice and his family to have a better life.