

**6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018**  
**“Women of Victory” Conference**

Thank you for your interest in the trip to Burkina Faso, to join our Wellspring 'GO' team. Please read the following carefully so that you are informed about the context of the mission. Then prayerfully consider if you would like to apply to join the team to Burkina Faso.

## Why GO?

The overall purposes of this trip is twofold:

**ADVENTURE:** On the one hand our aim is to grow personally and as a Wellspring team in seeing the world from God's perspective – in order to have a 'Great Commission' mindset we need to see and experience what an apostolic church-planting ministry looks like, and experience more of what God is doing in other nations. We grow when we go on adventures together!

**MINISTRY:** The second purpose is equally important – we want to encourage our partners in Burkina Faso in their ministry reaching their community, including local women and children. We do this through strengthening relationship, bringing our prayers, skills, energy and support as well as the finance to subsidize a women's conference. This trip is to run a 3-day conference for women.

## Our Hosts

We will be hosted by Moise and Elizabeth Oubda (seen here with Tim and Helen, whilst visiting the UK).

They are an amazing couple who head up the Lafiabougou Assemblies of God church in Bobo-Dioulasso (see map below, in the south-west of the country), from which a number of great social action initiatives have been formed including a



Kindergarten, School, Boys Training



centre and Dorcas centre, which trains girls the skill of sewing, creating clothes and after a three year apprenticeship, they leave to go back to their villages trained and equipped with a sewing machine. Moise and Elizabeth are always looking for ways to serve their community with the love of God, spreading the gospel both within Bobo and the surrounding villages, they have a heart for church planting and some of the churches are supported through the Leegere Partnership. Elizabeth has also started a micro financing support group, which loans ladies money to start or develop their small businesses, which is supported through Flourish's change2change (pink pigs) initiative.

## Accommodation

The team will most likely be staying either in the newly finished house next door to Moise and Elizabeth or at a local hotel which is basic but clean.

## Food

Most of our food will be provided by Elizabeth Oubda and her helpers, who cook Western style food. She is a very good cook and will provide plenty to eat. The food is delicious.

When you drink water it should only be from a bottle. Don't drink the tap water. Drink plenty of fluids to keep hydrated; it is hot in Burkina Faso.

## Cost and Payment

The cost of the mission is **£775** (including flights, in-country travel, accommodation and food). Please send your application form fully filled out to Jodie Laing, Wellspring Church, 1 Wellspring Way, Watford WD17 2AH. Email: [missions@wellspring-church.org](mailto:missions@wellspring-church.org) by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017. The first payment of £150 is to be paid by cheque payable to Wellspring Church' by 21<sup>st</sup> December 2017. The final amount is payable by 30<sup>th</sup> January 2018.



*Micro financing ladies*

## Fundraising

It is an important part of the adventure to walk a journey of faith and trust for the financing of your contribution. We recommend committing the whole challenge of raising funds for this to prayer and fasting, sharing the opportunity with family and friends, sponsored events and whatever creative ideas God inspires.

## Booking flights

Jodie will co-ordinate the booking of flights through a travel agent and will need **passport number, expiry date, date of birth, name as appears on passport and place of issue** of each member of the team.

## Visa

Visas need to be obtained in the UK before departure. They can be obtained from: Colin Seelig, the Honorary Consul of Burkina Faso. See website for full details of how to apply: [www.burkinafasovisa.co.uk](http://www.burkinafasovisa.co.uk) Visa applications are usually turned around very quickly (within a week), provided all the right documentation and fees accompany the application. **Please notify Jodie Laing once your visa has been granted.**

## Insurance, injections and medications

These are the things that the cost does not cover. It is essential that you get travel insurance before you go as well as your injections/medications.

### Injections:

You need to check with your GP/Practice Nurse at least 6 weeks ahead of travel what injections you may need for travelling to Burkina Faso. These are likely to include:

- Hepatitis A
- Typhoid
- Tetanus
- Diphtheria
- Polio
- Yellow fever: you will need an up-to-date certificate which you will be asked to produce when entering the country.

You may or may not have to pay for these injections, that will depend on your doctor!

### Medications:

You will also need a (private) prescription for anti-malaria tablets; we have usually had Malarone which needs to be started a couple of days before travelling and continue for a week after you come home.

You should also ensure you have an adequate supply of any medication you yourself need, as you may not be able to get more in Burkina Faso if you run out.

## Some useful things to take with you:

- Insect repellent cream/lotion, wipes and plug-in devices (those containing DEET are best)
- High factor sun cream/lotion, preferably containing insect repellent
- Antihistamine tablets and gel/cream
- Tablets to stop sickness/diarrhea
- Rehydration tablets (can be useful if you've had the above)
- Laxative tablets
- Loo roll (not all the toilets you will use are sophisticated!!!)
- Antibacterial hand wipes/gel (ditto!)
- Basic First Aid kit
- Adaptor suitable for West Africa
- Hat and sunglasses
- Torch

## Clothes

Pastel colours should be avoided because of the dust which is red and gets everywhere, unless you don't mind red stained clothes. Because of the heat cotton is advisable and polyester should be avoided. It is important to be smartly dressed particularly at the church meetings. Ladies where possible wear a longer length skirt/dress or trousers.

## Key Dates

Application completed received by Wellspring Church	<b>30<sup>th</sup> November 2017</b>
Team confirmation	7 <sup>th</sup> December 2017
Deposit for trip of £150.00	21 <sup>st</sup> December 2017
Pre-trip prayer and training (essential attendance) x 2 (both in Wellspring Living Room)	11 <sup>th</sup> December 2017 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2018
Balance payment for the trip	30 <sup>th</sup> January 2018
Visa details to Jodie	31 <sup>st</sup> January 2018
Trip to Burkina Faso	5 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2018
Team Debrief/Feedback evening	26 <sup>th</sup> February 2018

## Itinerary/proposed activities for the trip

- Meet at Wellspring Church
- Leave for London Heathrow Airport
- Flight leaves Heathrow, transfer in Brussels
- Arriving at Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
- Travel to Bobo
- Arrive in Bobo
- Prepare for "Women of Victory" Conference – 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> February
- Visit of Dorcas ministries
- Attend Lafiabougou church
- Travel back to Ouagadougou
- Fly back to London Heathrow Airport



## A little background information on Burkina Faso

More than 60 ethnic groups live in Burkina Faso, speaking a variety of different languages and dialects.

The Mossi are the largest group and make up half the population. The Fulani are the second largest, forming around 8% of the population.

French is the official language and widely spoken in the towns and cities. However, in the countryside many people use the local languages, such as Moore/Moré (pronounced 'more-ray') spoken by the Mossi, Dioula (pronounced 'Jula') a trading language of West Africa and Fulfulde, the language of the Fulani in the north.



Burkina Faso means 'Land of Honourable/Incorruptible Men'. Burkina is a Moore word meaning 'honour'. Faso is the Dioula word for 'fatherland'. The Fulfulde language is reflected in the term 'Burkinabe', because 'be' is its plural for people. This use of all three main languages symbolises the unity of the country. Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta) achieved independence from France in 1960. Repeated military coups during the 1970s and 1980s were followed by multiparty elections in the early 1990s. Former President Blaise Compaore (1987-2014) resigned on 31 October 2014 following popular protests against his efforts to amend the Constitution's two-term presidential limit. An interim administration, led by President Michel Kafando and Prime Minister Yacouba Isaac Zida is organizing presidential and legislative elections to be held in late 2015. Burkina Faso's high population growth and limited natural resources result in poor economic prospects for the majority of its citizens.



Burkina Faso is a poor, landlocked country that depends on adequate rainfall. About 80% of the population is engaged in subsistence farming and cotton is the main cash crop. The country has few natural resources and a weak industrial base. Cotton and gold are Burkina Faso's key exports and Burkina Faso's economic growth and revenue depends on global prices for the two commodities. The Burkinabe economy experienced high levels of growth over the last few years and gold accounted for about three-

quarters of the country's total export revenues in 2013. The country has seen an upswing in gold exploration, production, and exports. Burkina Faso experienced a number of public protests over the high cost of living, corruption, and other socioeconomic issues in 2013 and the fall of the COMPAORE government in 2014 gave rise to labourers pushing for better pay and working conditions. A new three-year IMF program was approved in 2013 to focus on improving the quality of public investment and ensuring inclusive growth. Political insecurity in neighbouring Mali, unreliable energy supplies, and poor transportation links pose long-term challenges. (1)

(1) Information from: [www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook](http://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook)

## Be spiritually prepared

Going on a short-term mission is a life changing experience. Expect God to speak to you as you are on the trip. Before the mission trip pray and listen to the Lord, both for yourself and the team as they prepare for the trip. On mission it is important that serving God is the primary focus, it is great to have fun, but the aim of the mission is serving Christ.

- Be willing to be used and have flexibility.
- It is important to respect leadership, including that of Helen, Moïse & Elizabeth. This will bring unity and blessing. In all you do aim to honour those who oversee you.
- Try not to complain about religious restrictions, pray that God will help the Christians to deal with traditions that may get in the way of freedom in the Spirit.
- If you have any issues on the mission, please come straight to Helen and the problem will be dealt with.

## Useful contact information for the trip:

Moïse and Elizabeth Oubda;

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