



Extra Resources



Burkina Faso and the Ministry of Awana

awana.org/where-we-serve/burkina-faso



With most of its people involved in subsistence farming, the people of Burkina Faso are overwhelmingly poor. But the poverty is not just at the surface; they deal with spiritual poverty as well. Half of its people are Muslim, 20% are Christians, but all struggle with animist and occult beliefs. With all these extremes, the challenge of Christian ministries is to bring compassion with the truth of the gospel. Awana Burkina Faso brings the life-changing truth to kids; it equips leaders there with mentorship, courage, and proven training methods; and it changes the lives of many who wonder if life can provide something more.

Reaching Kids in Burkina Faso

There are over 8 million children in Burkina Faso today under the age of 15—a number that is quickly increasing due to rapid population growth. Children there have some of the poorest conditions in the world, including a very low literacy rate for girls. Awana Burkina Faso can meet that challenge with its solid Biblical, visually appealing program. Providing mentoring and discipleship, Awana Burkina Faso is able to come alongside through local churches in ways foreign organizations cannot. Since the first club began there in 1997, the gospel of Christ has shown each child in Awana that he or she is precious to God and created especially by Him!

Every week, Awana Burkina Faso reaches 12,103 children with the gospel in their heart language through 180 clubs.

Additional Activities for Your Family:

1 cook a Burkinabe recipe together

Lemon Porridge [Papa de Limão]

Note: Millet is one of the staples of Burkina Faso.



Ingredients

- » 2 cups millet flour or fine white cornmeal
- » 4 cups cold water
- » Juice of 1/2 lemon
- » 1 cup boiling water

Directions

1. Gradually blend flour with cold water, mixing well to avoid lumps. Add the lemon juice and let the batter stand for 15 minutes.
2. Bring 1 cup water to boil in a large saucepan; gradually pour in your millet batter, stirring with a wooden spoon until it's smooth. Reduce heat and cook, stirring, until porridge bubbles thickly. It should be stiff like bread dough. Keep cooking and stirring after the bubbles start to form for about 5 minutes, until it's thick and smooth.
3. Pour porridge into a mold or bowl and let stand until set, about 30 minutes.
4. Unmold and serve.

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read about traditional Burkinabe joking



A little bit about a Burkinabe tradition called Rakiire

Burkina Faso is a country of culture, and because of the diversity of ethnic groups, many cultural practices are observed. One of the most important and widespread customs in Burkina Faso is Rakiire (cross-ethnic joking). According to Alain Joseph, research director at the Societies Sciences Institute of Ouagadougou, two types of Rakiire should be considered.

The first type of Rakiire is the family joking relationship. This kind of Rakiire exists within the same family between grandson and grandmother, granddaughter and grandfather, husband and junior sister-in-law, and nephews/nieces and aunts.

The second type of Rakiire is the cross-ethnic joking relationship. In this case, two or more ethnic groups decide freely to make an agreement that includes a nonaggression pact and mutual support.

But what is Rakiire?

Rakiire consists of two people within the same big family or two different ethnic groups telling jokes that are often very sour and border on insolence. Rakiire is a thousand-year-old custom. No one can say when exactly it started; however, cross-ethnic joking is considered a dynamic, evolutionary practice.

Rakiire within a big family evolves as marital relations are formed and children are brought into the world. Rakiire insults never lead to a brawl. When a person starts “insulting” the parents of someone else, he can only insult the father. The mother is not insulted because generally she is from another ethnic group. The purpose of these joke “insults” is to allow people to have fun and remember the pact of nonaggression and assistance that exists between their ethnic groups.

See more at:

<http://blog.compassion.com/burkina-faso-culture-the-tradition-of-rakiire-in-burkina-faso/#sthash.ZmeuOojp.dpuf>

3 play a Burkinabe game

Gametime-Ampe:

Ampe is a traditional children's game, played mostly by young girls in West Africa, but older girls play as well (and some boys too). Kids play it all the time, at home, at school during break times, when out and about. It can be played with two individuals or with two teams. Basically, players jump up at the same time, clap, and thrust one foot forward as they land. The patterns of legs determine the winner. It's a fun game that keeps kids active, and requires being able to anticipate your opponent, making snap decisions and having quick reflexes.



How to Play:

With two individuals:

Choose which player is the leader. The leader and the other player jump up at the same time and clap twice - on the second clap, as they land they thrust one foot forward. If the leader and the other player have the same foot forward, "bend" (both of the right feet or both of the left feet), the leader wins a point. If opposing feet are thrust, "straight" then the other player becomes leader. Players keep score until one has a certain amount to be announced winner.

As a group:

Choose which player is leader. The same game play as with individuals, but this time the leader makes her or his way along the line of other kids (in a line up, or circled around her). A point is scored every time the leader is successful, and points are tallied after she makes her way through the group. Another person becomes leader and tallies her/his points. Everyone takes a turn as a leader, and the one with the most scored points wins.

As 2 teams:

Each team should have equal numbers. One team chooses how it will win points - whether if feet land "bend" or "straight" (see individual game play). The second team wins points the opposite way. Teams line up facing each other. One person from the first team jumps & claps with a person of the second team. The person who wins a point moves onto the next person in the opposing team. This continues until all players on one team have been beaten. When this happens, the winning team gets to choose a player from the opposing team to be ejected from the game. Once a team has ejected all the players from an opposing team, they've succeeded in winning.