



Arbre de vie
Lebensbaum / Tree of life
Give hope to the deprived

ARBRE DE VIE - BENIN

December 10 - March 11

Protection for children in a difficult living situation

CONTACT FAMILY FATON

081 BP 7142, Aéroport

Cotonou, Bénin

Phone +229 21 00 98 82

Honoré : +229 97 58 58 99

Gabi: +229 97 89 83 67

honorefaton@yahoo.fr

gabifaton@gmail.com

info@arbre-de-vie.org

Content

- ♥ An extraordinary Christmas
- ♥ Kids' camp 2010
- ♥ Documents for our land
- ♥ Gift of the Family Department
- ♥ Fundraising Trip Honoré
- ♥ Current and planned projects

Dear friends and partners of Arbre de vie,

The end of the year 2010 was special for the Yedidja kids. They had fantastic Christmas and New Year's parties, and in between the two, a very exciting kid's camp. Their Christmas holiday was definitely one of the most eventful ones in their lives!

And there were events of which we want to give you a glimpse in this letter.

CELEBRATION TIMES!

Last Christmas was very special for the children. They had never celebrated as much. Thanks to special gifts from various churches and friends, we were able to make a gift to each child, to decorate the center and to have very tasty meals. The children even bought their own goat which they butchered for the Christmas celebration. And Christmas breakfast included fresh bread with chocolate spread, a very rare treat!

All the children say "thank you" for their beautiful gifts. They received traditionally made clothes, shoes, a towel and even pocket money. It was pretty clear that they were most excited about receiving the money! On Christmas morning, we studied the nativity story with them which they really needed to learn a lot about. Later at night time, the older kids showed their creativity by making up a sketch of the birth story of Jesus. It was a very special celebration indeed!

Above: The children in their new clothes

Below: A goat is being butchered for the feast!



Kids' camp 2010

Another highlight was the kids' camp 2010. The children love the camp. We thank all donors who have made it possible for them to live these moments. Among others, we organized the following activities for them:



Learn Bible verses



Singing and dancing



Arts and craft



A few numbers from the camp and bits of information:

- ♥ 38 participants out of which 28 were Yedidja children
- ♥ The age range was 6 through 19 years
- ♥ 5 groups were competing: the Ephesians, Galatians, Philippians, Corinthians and Colossians
- ♥ Points could be earned (or lost) in the various disciplines, such as "Having fun", Bible knowledge, behavior, sports, creativity, group competition, fairness and many more
- ♥ 4 nations were represented: the 12 staff members were from Benin, the USA, Germany and Israel
- ♥ 3 ladies came to help out in the kitchen and as nanny
- ♥ The winners of the gold medal were the Galatians with their coach and co-coach Rotem and Jon.

More news from the orphanage

- ♥ An engineer friend measured our land plot. At the same occasion, the landlord walked with us the limits of the land and helped clean it while we did so. This is necessary for us to receive the official land papers. According to the customs, the buyer then offers a special meal and drinks to the seller. Which we did to the satisfaction of all.
- ♥ The volunteers Rotem and Yahel from Israel spent 4 weeks with the NGO to help out at the orphanage.
- ♥ We were able to buy a generator thanks to a special donation. The old generator needed repairs almost every week.
- ♥ The estimate we received from the government electricity company was a bit of a shock to us, a "mere" 26,000 Euros! At this point we can only pray that the Father of all orphans helps us to get electricity on our land!
- ♥ The Family Secretary made donations to several orphanages in January, and Arbre de vie was among the lucky ones. We received 250kg rice, 25l of vegetable oil, a carton of each soap, sugar and noodles. This gift was a huge help during difficult times when prices in Benin are rising every day.
- ♥ We have been looking for a kitchen help for months now. It is not easy to find ladies in Sakété who have a solid school education and who will not only be helping in the kitchen, but also with the education of the children. Thank your for praying for new competent and reliable human resources!



*Above: The delimitation of the land with the seller (left)
 Middle: The Family Secretary is giving a speech in front of journalists
 Below: The children and Charlotte are happy about the gifts*

PROJECTS

Here is a summary of some of the current or planned projects and needs:

A FISH FARM AS A PROFIT GENERATING ACTIVITY

What would be more logical than to raise Tilapia fish?

- * Fish is a daily dairy and almost every sauce is prepared with fish
- * Fish is highly nutritional with its high percentage of proteins and therefore especially precious for the children
- * Fish is an every day consumption product, and we will always be able to sell it
- * Raising fish is simpler than raising chicken or rabbits - they do not need vaccines, and with the right water temperature they can breed easily and are fast growing
- * The project has been conceived for a time period of 8 months max. We hope to be having an income after that.

We thank the generous donors for making this first profit generating activity possible for Arbre de vie!



In this pool, we hope to be raising Tilapia fish for our own consumption and for sales



URGENT NEED: FURNITURE FOR THE ORPHANAGE

The kids are sharing chairs, beds, wardrobes. We have an urgent need for various furniture, such as beds, mattresses, chairs, benches, tables and cabinets. A chair costs €7, a table between €25 and €30, a shelf system for the children €230. We want to thank all those in advance who are willing to contribute to this project!

A LIBRARY FOR SAKETE

This won't be a library just for our own children. We want it to be available to school friends, neighbors, and anybody interested in Sakété. The idea: Acquire a bus (which is not necessarily running anymore) which we will equip as a library. We will be organizing regular film projections and reading sessions. The goal is to contribute to the general education of children in Sakété. Donations are welcome for books, shelves, equipment, acquiring and transporting the bus.



Training for the baton change

We have told you in our special family newsletter that the Faton family will move back to Germany for some time. We have a big task in training the personnel here for the responsibilities ahead. We want to ask you if your heart desires to continue to support the projects of Arbre de vie. We want to ask for your prayers for the couple Ashley and Jon who will take on more responsibilities after our departure. Thank you for your continued support! We will keep you informed about our projects, as we've always done it.

You can find us here: www.arbre-de-vie.org or on our Facebook page "Arbre de vie - ONG, Benin".

May God bless you, the Faton family and the Arbre de vie team

Bank account information

In the USA

Recipient: Beavercreek Church of the Nazarene.

Please mention the destination in the memo line.

Address: c/o Ashley Reeves, 1850, N. Fairfield Road, Beavercreek, OH 45432

Arbre de vie - Benin

Société Générale de Banques au Bénin

Avenue Clozel

01 BP 585

Cotonou

Bank code: B0104

Counter (guichet): 01000

Account no.: 10460923001

RIB 35,

IBAN : B0104 001001046092300135

SWIFT: SOGEBJBJ

GERMANY:

Recipient: Lebensbaum e.V.

Bank name: Deutsche Bank

Account nr.: 4054425

Bank code: 460 700 24

BIC: DEUTDEB516

IBAN: DE04460700240405442500