

# MACLEAN MALI UPDATE

January 2012

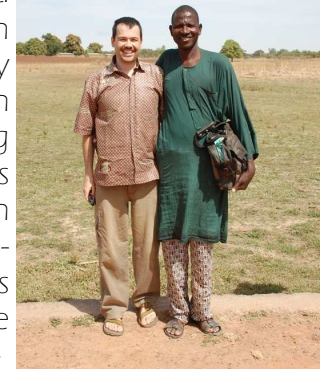
## THE FIRST FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST IN SOUN

As usual there isn't enough space here to tell all the stories that we could tell, but we wanted to at least tell one that is a great example of what God is doing in Mali through the work of the hospital. The village of Soun is so devout to the predominant religion that this name Soun is the local language word for the month of fasting. Yet despite this Christ has been making His name known through the hospital in exciting ways. He has brought us numerous patients from this village including one of our juvenile diabetics and this child below, Bele [pronounced bell-A] with wasting illness inherited from his mother. Hard to recognize that this is the same boy 3 months later! Bele is actually the son of the head Imam or Islamic teacher for the village.



The son of the Imam, Bele, at arrival, skin and bones, unable to walk, then just 3 months later happy and healthy

His child was unable to be healed anywhere except at our hospital despite numerous attempts elsewhere. Now this head Islamic teacher warmly accepts us into his courtyard and loves to laugh with us and spend time together. Even more amazing though is how the future chief of the village, Seydou, has come to know Christ over the last 2 years. Seydou was childless but had a close nephew, Modibo, that had been given to him to raise as his son. Sadly Modibo had swallowed caustic soda in the months prior and due to worsening esophageal scarring, was in the process of dying, unable to swallow even his own saliva. Finally Seydou learned of our hospital and by dilating Modibo's esophagus with special tubes inserted through the



We so enjoyed getting to witness Seydou's baptism on Christmas day

mouth, he was able to live and thrive now even eating meat. Through this experience Seydou began traveling to the closest town with a church and for the last two years has been attending and learning more about Christ. During this time, through prayer and treatment at our hospital, his wife despite being infertile for 17 years was finally able to have a child. Then just a couple of months ago, Seydou risked everything. Despite being in line to be chief as soon as his bed-ridden father passed away, Seydou stated publicly in Soun that he had become a follower of Christ. Thankfully instead of being ostracized and chased out of the village, his public statement caused others to want to learn more about Christ as well. Likely their hearts had already softened after having seen several of their fellow villagers leave in a near-death state, including the Imam's son, only to return healthy after receiving care in Christ's name at our hospital. Praise God for the first followers of Christ ever in the village of Soun! May He use this Chief to spread the glory of His wonderful, powerful Name to those who have never heard.



## CANCER UPDATE



Sheri regularly updates our blog with photos of how our cancer patients are doing as well as presenting the new cases we have. Our latest great success that we are giving thanks to God for is little Mahamadou (This along with other variations is the most common name in Mali given the name of the founder of Islam). Mahamadou arrived with a large pediatric kidney cancer that has been rapidly shrinking with chemotherapy. After this updated photo he had his small residual mass and cancerous kidney removed and is doing great continuing his chemo. Thanks for praying for these patients and their families and giving



so generously so we can care for them! For more about Mahamadou and our other patients check out the blog... <http://koutialakids.blogspot.com>

## BIG TONGUE...NO TONGUE

We definitely don't get bored in Koutiala. We get to see a wide spectrum of illnesses that continue to surprise us. As an example of the various ends of the spectrum, look at these two kids' mouths.



At arrival



4 months later

This child has an enormous tongue! Abdoulaye likely has a hemangioma on his tongue as it grew rapidly during his first year of life at which time they came to us. He was unable to nurse and was struggling with breathing as the large tongue was starting to obstruct his airway. Thankfully in the last five years a common heart medicine (propranolol) was discovered by accident to shrink hemangiomas. We started this medicine which rapidly shrunk the growth to a more manageable size enabling him to easily breathe and eat. Look how happy and healthy he is after just a few months. The mass should continue to shrink until disappearing completely.



At 2 weeks of life



9 months later

Oumou, on the other hand, was born without a tongue. She was wasting away as she was unable to nurse. We couldn't imagine a child surviving in Mali without a tongue and assumed she would die from choking on milk but decided that we couldn't just let the kid die by starvation so we started providing the family with formula in addition to expressed breast milk administered by a bottle with a long nipple that we use with our cleft palate patients. Every two weeks the family returns from their village for more milk and continues to amaze us as the child is now over 9 months old. We have done research and found a few similar patients in the US who have survived and learned to talk as well using their throat muscles. Pray for this little girl to continue to grow and defy the odds for a child with this condition in a third world country.

## THE REAL MALIAN MISSIONARIES

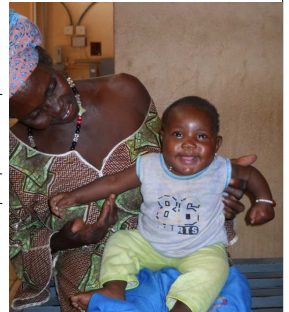
In our last update we talked about the father of one of our newly diagnosed juvenile diabetics who has helped to found a new church in a village that also has never had any followers of Christ. Mali is full of villages like this and thankfully there are many Malians who have taken up the call to leave their home and extended family to live in one of these villages. They are barely given enough funds to eat each month, but their goal is to build relationships with the local people and help them physically and spiritually.



Through a part of the undesignated donations that you all have so generously given us we have in turn helped several of these C&MA Malians by providing low-cost motorcycles enabling them to get to know and show the love of Christ to a wider area of people. They are also often asked to help evacuate sick people which a motorcycle can handle. Thank you for generously giving to us so that we could in turn bless others and see the name of Christ spread widely throughout Mali!

## BABIES WE'RE FEEDING

These babies and the many others whose mothers have passed away or have other medical conditions requiring formula thank you for giving monthly to their nutrition! The mother of this child on the right died at home during childbirth. Despite this tragedy, the child is now thriving and I love teasing this grandma that the baby is bigger than she is. 😊



Undernourished women trying to nurse triplets is nearly impossible. Most have to watch at least one die as they succumb to illnesses secondary to their malnourished state. Thank you for allowing us to help triplets such as these on the left grow and remain in good health!

## SOLAR UPDATE

Thank you to the many of you who have been praying and giving towards the hospital solar project. Over \$60,000 has already come in which has enabled us to start the order. The first leg of daytime power will likely cost \$90,000 and the second leg to provide 24 hour stable power through solar-charged batteries will be even more expensive. But this will enable us to be independent of our unreliable and expensive diesel fuel powered generators as well as the government electric bills which are about \$3000 per month. Thank you for your continued prayers and giving towards this project.



# OUR UPCOMING SCHEDULE

In **February** we travel for 2 weeks to Kenya for the every other year conference for international medical workers of Africa. This is a great time to hear from experts on new ways we could be doing things as well as fellowship with others in similar situations to us.

In **mid March** we start our 3 month furlough. We will once again be based out of Sheri's parents' home in Raleigh, NC but will spend weeks in Ormond Beach, Florida with my mother as well. All our hospital projects will continue running so please don't forget to continue praying for them. Thanks!

For other stories that there isn't room to tell in these update letters as well as updates on how past patients are doing now, be sure to check out the Children's Hospital blog..



Hospital Staff during annual Christmas party

## GREAT COMMISSION FUND

The primary investment vehicle to support our work is the Great Commission Fund. Contributions can be made through a local Alliance church, on line at <http://www.cmalliance.org/give/> or by sending a check to the C&MA, PO Box 35000, Colorado Springs, CO 80935-3500. You may designate your gift to support us by writing "for the support of Brett, Sheri MacLean" on the memo line. This personalizes your gift and helps us be here and carry out our ministry.

For those interested in supporting our work fund, or the hospital, including the solar project, these links will take you to the secure donation site...

<http://tinyurl.com/macleanworkfund>

<http://tinyurl.com/koutialahospital>

If you did not get a chance to read my article in the Alliance Life magazine, follow this link for more stories from the hospital: <http://www.alliancelife.org/article.php?id=660>

## PRAYER

For the first followers in the village of Soun to be strengthened in their faith and for others to join them

For our trip to Kenya to be beneficial both medically and spiritually

For our final preparations and teaching prior to our furlough

For Christ's name to be spread to every village and ethnic group in Mali



## AND

## PRAISE

New followers of Christ in Soun

For the many women and children cured at the hospital of often unthinkable conditions

For our upcoming time in Kenya and furlough which enables us to strengthen our hearts and minds away from the burden that we carry in Mali



Left: 3 wise men  
Above: 3 silly boys



Above: New Christmas Eve tradition...Sparklers



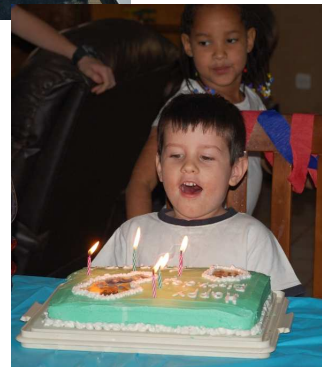
Right: Sheri's parents drinking Hibiscus juice with Kenan at French preschool



Christmas in village Soun, complete with the wise men on camels and the shepherd above.



For more pics: <http://brettandsheri.blogspot.com>



Below: Sheri with her friend and newborn baby "Sheri"

Happy 5th Birthday, Kenan!  
Diego cake and games with friends

