

**“Ready to Learn” Sunday:
Celebrate education around the world with Global Family**

Resources for Sunday, September 13, 2009

Revised Common Lectionary readings:

Hebrew Bible: **Proverbs 1:20-33 or Isaiah 50:4-9a**

Psalm: **Psalm 19 or Psalm 116:1-9**

Epistle: **James 3:1-12**

Gospel: **Mark 8:27-38**

- Use “Ready to Learn” bulletin cover. Download it in black and white or color at www.mcc.org/globalfamily/resources

Call to Worship (based on Prov 1, Isaiah 50 and Ps 19)

Leader: Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice.

People: **How long will we love being ignorant?**

Leader: How long will we have knowledge?

People: **We need a teacher who will, with a word, sustain us in our weariness.**

Leader: The Law of the Lord is perfect

People: **Reviving the soul**

Leader: The decrees of the Lord are sure

People: **Making wise the simple**

Leader: Oh God, we want to learn.

People: **Oh God, help us be ready to learn.**

ALL: AMEN.

-(or)-

Call to Worship (based on Prov 1:20-33)

Leader: Wisdom cries out in the street,

People: **“Are you ready to learn?”**

Leader: At the busiest corner she raises her voice,

People: **“How long until you choose knowledge?”**

Leader: How long will we scoff at others and refuse the gifts they offer?

People: **Wisdom speaks: “The complacency of fools destroys them.”**

ALL: **God, help us shake off our foolish stupor. We are eager, ready to learn.**

Prayer of Invocation

God of this new day, the heavens tell us of your glory, the firmament shows us your handiwork! Your words speak to us and your teachings inspire us. More to be desired than gold, even much fine gold, are your words for us. Speak to us this day, God, and give us strength. Amen.

Global Family Stories (for Children's Time, sermon illustrations, or other parts of the service; a photo of each child is available – photos by Virginia Lepp)

- **Also available: 3.5 minute audio slide show introduction to Global Family. Download at www.mcc.org/globalfamily.**

Meet Olivia

Olivia Rosalie Aniambou, a bright-eyed 11-year-old, lost her father seven years ago. Her mother struggles to raise three children alone.

Olivia is in grade 4 at the local public school in Po, Burkina Faso, Africa. Her favorite subjects are history and geography. Classes are in French, but the family's first language is Kasemm.

The Aniambou family lives in a courtyard with 22 other people. They rent one room and sleep on mats on the floor. All 26 people share one outdoor toilet and get their water from a neighborhood pump. They also share the courtyard with dogs, goats, chickens, and a donkey.

Olivia likes to cook. Over a wood fire or over charcoal, she makes rice and sauce for her family. Generally, Olivia's family had one main meal each day, in the evening. Her mother used the little money they had to buy school uniforms for her children instead of food. Now that she is part of the Global Family program Welcome the Orphans, Global Family partner Song Kibsé will soon pay for Olivia's school fees and uniform and deliver much-needed food on a regular basis.

As part of the program Olivia will also be matched with a "monitor," a trained volunteer who will visit her on a regular basis. This monitor will check on

her well-being and fulfill the role of another concerned “parent” in Olivia’s life.

You can assist Olivia and 29 other children in the “Welcome the Orphans” program in Burkina Faso by becoming a Global Family sponsor. As a sponsor, you receive two updates with stories and photos each year. Olivia is ready to learn, are you?

Meet Sansan

Last June, Sansan Kambou, who is 14, did not pass the grade 6 exam necessary to continue his schooling. He speaks Djoula and some French, but finds school, which is in French, very difficult. With the support of Global Family partner organization Song Kibsé, Sansan began a two year carpentry apprenticeship.

Sansan’s mother passed away and his father has moved to another city, so he lives in Po, Burkina Faso, Africa with his older brother, sister-in-law, and young nephew and niece.

Sansan chose carpentry because he likes to create things; he is artistic and good with his hands. Together with co-apprentice Asmado, he has already started making small tables. Sansan loves his work. He proudly took his first table home to use there.

Both boys are very happy with their master carpenter. He is kind to them and they consider him to be a good teacher. Their workday begins at 6:00 in the morning and finishes at 5:00 in the evening. As part of the apprenticeship program, the boys also receive lunch. They are happy to be eating three meals a day while learning a trade they love.

You can assist Sansan and 29 other children in the “Welcome the Orphans” program in Burkina Faso by becoming a Global Family sponsor. As a sponsor, you receive two updates with stories and photos each year. Sansan is ready to learn, are you?

Benediction (from Ps 116)

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;
our God is merciful.
The Lord protects the simple;
the Lord deals bountifully with us.

We have been delivered from death,
our eyes need not cry,
our feet need not stumble.
We walk before the Lord
in the land of the living.

We are not alone.

Go forth in peace to serve and love the Lord.



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