

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

Resources for Sunday, September 20, 2009

Revised Common Lectionary readings:

Hebrew Bible: **Proverbs 31:10-31**

Psalm: **Psalm 1 or Jeremiah 11:18-20 and Psalm 54**

Epistle: **James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a**

Gospel: **Mark 9:30-37**

- 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 Psalm 1:1-3)

People: Happy are those who do not choose the trail packed smooth by sinners’ feet or frequent the rest area filled with mocking cynics.

Leader: Rather, they are ready to learn the contours of God’s path.

And Scripture accompanies the rhythm of their steady steps, day and night.

People: They recognize their own strength and generosity as they pass trees

Leader: planted by streams of water,

People: giving fruit in season.

ALL: And all they do brings blessing.

Prayer of Invocation

God, fill us with joy this day, as we still the clamoring within us and wait expectantly, ready to learn.

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 Kassem.

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?

Who is Wise? (Poem based on James 3:13, 16)

Who is wise and understanding among you?
Are you ready to learn more?
Ready to share the opportunity of learning with others?

Has your selfish ambition led to
a disordered world? Where wickedness keeps
some children home from school
while other children soak in the joy of new knowledge?

The wisdom God gives is full of mercy and goodness,
without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.
A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace
when all God's children in the global family
happily skip off to school together,
a lunch in one hand, a friend in the other.

Benediction (from Mark 9:36-37)

Then Jesus took a little child
and asked her to stand among them.

Embracing her gently, he said to his friends:

“If you show kindness to a child in my name,
you show kindness to me and to her Creator.”

Go forth loving God and all the children
in God's global family. Amen.



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