

Shelter Classroom

Last Updated Wednesday, 15 April 2009

This week we started our first "classroom under a shelter" minus the shelter! I was once again reminded I'm in Africa as the shelter which they were certain would be ready in one week wasn't yet ready. But we started class anyway under the shade of a few trees and sat on straw mats; and it couldn't have gone better! The kids started out as sweet, innocent, shy little angels. By the end, they were smiling, talking and having a great time. As time goes on, we'll begin to discover their true personalities!

In case some of you are behind, this is our first shelter classroom in a village. We have enrolled 18 6-8 year old children and will hold a kind of "pre-K" class to prepare them for school next year. The idea is, if all goes well in this village, we will build a couple more shelter classrooms in other villages and among these villages select the site for the next Christian Elementary School building.

The two new teachers selected for this site, Bazie and Ousseni (2 young men) also did a fantastic job. They were surprisingly nurturing, patient, and animated with this group of young ones. It's truly an exciting project.

We held a teacher training last week for 8 teacher candidates. They all left excited and ready to help us work towards more opportunities for true Christian education. Five have been offered part-time positions. From those, we hope to develop teachers who will be ready to step into the next elementary school positions.