

Day 12
Monday, 20 January 2020 - Ouagadougou

Adissa, Pauline, Noëli, Djénéba, Ursula, Clément

You remember Adissa (Day 10); today we went to visit her school. *Solidarité* is paying for her to repeat her senior year.



The Director of Studies told us that Adissa's first trimester average was only 7.41/20. She ranked 43rd out of 90 students. He showed us her report card.



That said, it's not impossible that she could pass the Bac exam, he said, although last year only 41 of 84 students passed. So she's right on the border line.



As we drove away, we passed another huge dump. I asked Christine if there wasn't garbage collection in Ouaga. Yes, she said, but you have to pay for it. Enterprising women also collect the garbage in a little wagon for a fraction of the cost and come and dump it here.



We then went to see Pauline's school; she's the one I was so delighted to rediscover yesterday. It's run by the Assembly of God.



The campus was huge.



We spoke to the Principal, M. Rakistaba, who said that Pauline's 9.21 average was a good start. If she's motivated and gets enough to eat, she could pass the Bac exam, he said. The statistics were in her favor; in 2018, 70% of the seniors passed the test.



I liked him; I liked the school. I told him that we've been criticized as being too Koudougou, too Catholic and too Mossi (the dominant ethnic group). A Protestant school in Ouaga would be perfect. Would he nominate a beneficiary for us next year? Delighted, he said.



After my daily mid-day nap, Noëlie came by to see me. She was over from Koudougou to attend a funeral. I've been trying to get cost estimates from her to install solar panels in her dress-making atelier. I had met with a representative of the UN 1% Fund in Geneva and she said we could qualify for aid. Kofi Annan was really supportive of the 1% Fund; UN staff can voluntarily give 1% of their salaries to development projects.



The cost estimates were in order—total less than 8,000€. I said I would do my best. Noëlie was happy.



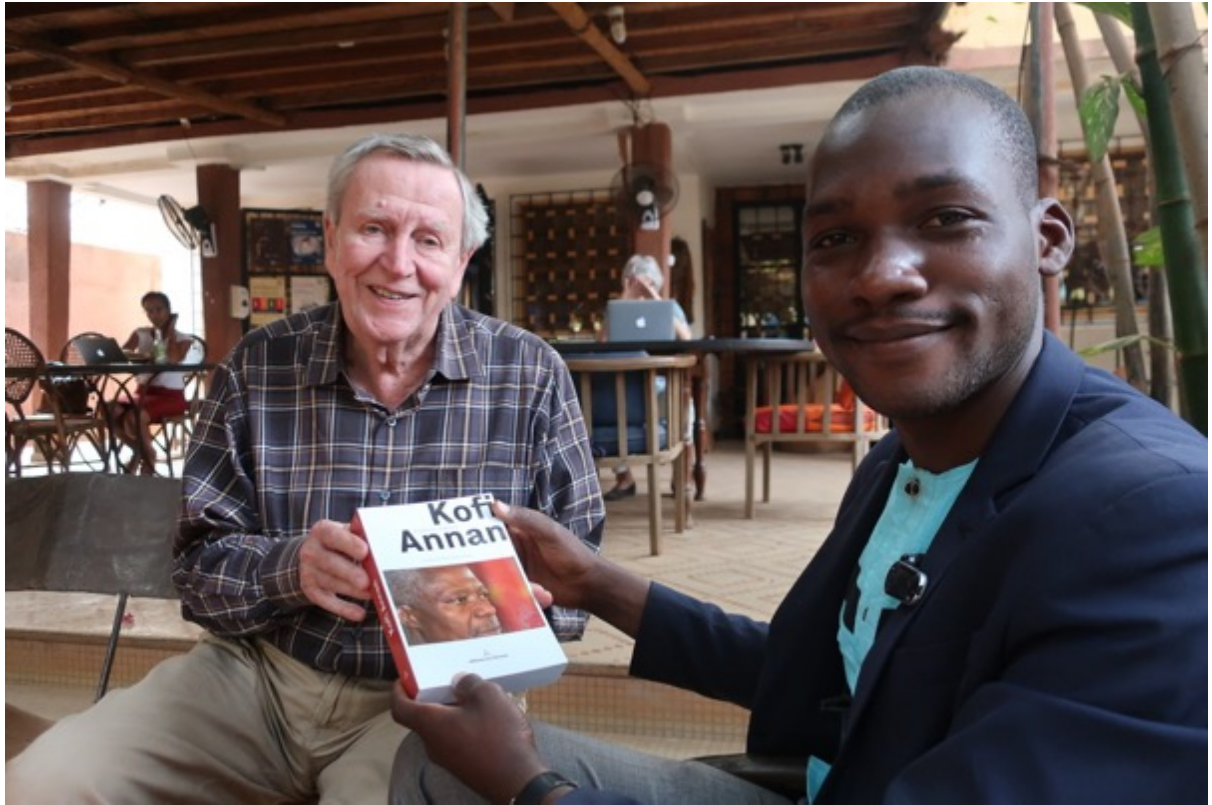
Djénéba stopped by unannounced—she’s the director of the women’s health clinic and the newest volunteer with our Health Fund. We spoke about Roseline, our third-year student suffering from psychological problems. She said she would send a female counselor to her home—don’t try to move her to a hospital, she warned.



Ursula came by afterwards and reported that she had spent a day and a half in an internet café calling all 70 of our beneficiaries from 2010 to the present to assign them a WhatsApp number. Next she will create the group and we will begin communicating with all at once. Clément the diplomat joined us. Ursula found that 9 girls didn't have a smartphone. Clément, who financed his law degree by selling used smartphones, said he could get us a good price.



I gave Clément a copy in French of my book on Kofi and wished him luck in his diplomatic career.



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