

2. **Yarou Plateau school garden:** Thanks to the Bellbrook United Methodist Church amazing Christmas offering last year, we were able to help the school in Yarou Plateau start a garden. The children are excited about it and so are the village women, many of whom have also been given plots to use. We were also able to provide some training in gardening techniques. Now, we would like to provide them with gardening tools, so they can more effectively cultivate their garden. We also will provide fruit trees so that they can raise fruit such as papayas, pomegranates, dates, custard apples, etc. in addition to vegetables.
3. **Training in soap-making for women:** The women of Kansongho are seeking more ways to earn income for their families. They have joined savings groups to pool their resources and make loans to group members to start small businesses or buy supplies for the work they do. They want to learn how to make soap to use for themselves – and to sell as a way of earning income. We would like to provide them with training on how to do this.
4. **Latrine for the cotton bank:** Thanks to the Bellbrook United Methodist Church help and that of other donors, the Kansongho women have a fully operating cotton bank. They are thrilled! This is the first time that women in the village have officially owned a building (the cotton storehouse), and they are excited to have access to cotton to process. Now they have asked for a latrine near the cotton bank building. This is a very

significant request, because the only latrines in the village right now have been built for guests. The villagers used to reject the idea of latrines, but now the women are getting excited about it. Having a latrine at the cotton bank will be a great example for all of the families in the village.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Can you contribute to the 2011 Bellbrook United Methodist Church Christmas Offering?

Can you make a contribution to the Christmas Offering the first gift on your shopping list?

Can you make a contribution to the Christmas Offering in honor of a loved one and purchase one less gift for them?

Can you make a contribution to the Christmas Offering in memory of a loved one?

Remember:

We honor Jesus' birthday when we give to others.



Bellbrook United Methodist Church



2011 GOAL: \$15,000.00

We give because God gives to us. God's greatest gift is the gift we remember each year as we approach the holiday season – the gift of Jesus. The way we express appreciation for our life with Jesus is through generosity towards others.

This year our offering continues with our commitment to serve people in our community through giving to the Bellbrook- Sugarcreek Family Resource Center – meeting ongoing needs for people in poverty and emergency needs; through The Tandana Foundation, we will make a significant difference in the lives of persons living in the villages of Sal-Dimi, Kansongho, and Yarou Plateau in the Dogon Country of Mali. We will provide gardening tools, training for making soap, a latrine for the cotton bank, and build a grain bank; the Wings of the Morning will provide a much needed airplane for a remote area of the Democratic Republic of the Congo so that medical and emergency needs of the people can be met.

Offerings that exceed our goal of \$15,000 will be divided equally among the Family Resource Center, Tandana Foundation, and Wings of the Morning.

2011 Christmas Offering Goals:

\$2075

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Family Resource Center serves families through children's programs, food supplies, emergency needs, and school supplies. Church members volunteer in the programs at the Family Resource Center.

\$10,850 The Tandana Foundation

This goal will provide for specific needs that can make a difference in the lives of people in the Dogon Country of Mali.

\$8500 grain bank in Sal-Dimi.

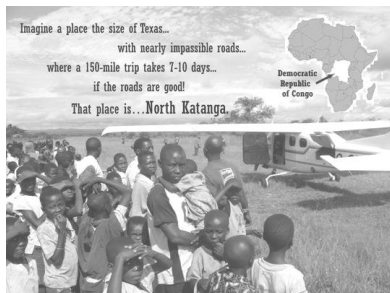
\$1300 tools, trees, and seeds for the Yarou Plateau school garden

\$650 training in soap-making for women

\$400 latrine for the cotton bank

\$2075

The new airplane for **Wings of the Morning** will have a powerful impact in



North Katanga Conference of the United Methodist Church in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in terms of fulfilling the grand vision of spreading Christ's love in a huge but remote region of Africa. It will enable the pilot to nearly triple his capacity to carry people and supplies to remote towns and villages.

Total Goal: \$15,000



The Tandana Foundation

The Tandana Foundation is a non-profit organization that offers cross-cultural volunteer opportunities, scholarships, and funding for small community projects in highland Ecuador and Mali's Dogon Country. The community projects help villages in Mali and Ecuador realize their dreams of improving their communities.

Tandana is a Kichwa root meaning "to gather together" or "to unite" and represents the spirit of the work of The Tandana Foundation.

Anna Taft serves as the Executive Director of The Tandana Foundation; Hope Taft serves as the President of the Board of Trustees.

www.bellbrookumc.org
with link to
The Tandana Foundation.



MALI

Located near the eastern border of Mali, the Dogon region, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is home to about 350,000 Dogon people, as well as a large number of Peuls (Fulani) and Bambara. The agriculture of the Dogon people is primarily subsistence farming, with a focus on millet, sorghum, and peanuts. The daily life of the Dogon people is one of hard work – walking miles for firewood, drawing water from deep wells by hand and breaking stones from the bedrock for construction projects. Their struggle to meet their needs in this arid land motivates villagers to undertake projects to improve their situation and seems to deepen their joy in celebrating their accomplishments and new friendships.

DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF TANDANA PROJECTS

- 1. Grain bank.** The villagers of Sal-Dimi, Mali live mostly by subsistence farming of millet and peanuts. With the decreasing rainfall in recent years, they are having a hard time growing enough food to last until the next harvest. During the dry season, most of the young people leave the village to look for work in the cities and earn money to buy food and other necessities for their families in the village. To respond to the problem of food security in the region, the village decided to start a grain bank. We want to help with materials and a bit of skilled labor for building the storehouse and grain to stock the bank the first year with 150 sacks of millet and 5 sacks each of rice and sorghum. This grain will be sold throughout the year at a constant price, much less than the sky-high levels the market price reaches during the rainy season. Proceeds from each year's sales will be used to purchase more grain immediately after the next harvest at the annual low price. Thus, a revolving stock of grain is available for purchase in the village at an affordable price. As families run out of food, they are able to buy it little by little and feed their children. We also want to provide training to the committee that will manage the grain bank on how to do so effectively.