

SIM BIBLE COLLEGE CONSTRUCTION

In February 2008 year a team of builders travelled to Fada in Burkina Faso, West Africa, to assist in the construction of a Bible college for SIM. The team had an international flavour as much of the overseas assistance was made up of many different nationalities.

Gordon Campbell, co-ordinated the NI team input to the project and was instrumental in ensuring that vital materials for the project made it through customs, arriving safely in Burkina. As important as it is to build a good solid structure that will stand as a credit to our God, SIM missionary, Robert Ottosson, reminded the team how important it is to build relations with the local people. With this in mind, the FIA team worked alongside the local Burkina bricklayers. Using a combination of English, French and the local 'Gorma' language we muddled through, although more often we resorted to pointing and hand-signals!

The construction was a reinforced



concrete portal frame with single block infill walls, a single storey structure with a profiled sheeted pitched roof. The college will accommodate approximately 100 students and has facilities for showering, toilets, kitchen and prayer and study rooms. At the end of the 4-week mission trip, FIA had completed the installation of the steel trusses, purlins and decking to the roof. It was indeed a day to rejoice and offer thanks to God when the final profile roof sheet was fixed into place. In a short time the team had brought the building from ground to roof

level and while there is still much to be done to finish the building ready for occupation the team have completed the most difficult element of the construction and provided a huge step towards completion. For several team members, this was

the first time in Africa and after such a good experience are hoping to return. The work is tough in high temperatures, but this is more than compensated by the opportunity to spend time with like-minded believers.

Being in a different culture with full-time missionaries broadens your christianity, increases your faith and enlarges your vision. FIA plan to return in the new year with a work team to assist in the completion of the college and there are some places available. For further information please contact FIA.