

The Camel Express

Newsletter of the Friends of Niger

October 2003

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2004 International Calendar Features Photo from Niger Charles Cecil's Work Graces Month of April



The village of Doualaga (above), from a photo taken by Charles Cecil during his tour as U.S. Ambassador to Niger (1996-99). The photo, entitled African Savannah, is the feature photo for the month of April in the 2004 International Calendar. One of Ambassador Cecil's photos also appeared in the 2002 edition of the International Calendar - published by the RPCVs of Wisconsin-Madison. The beautiful photo below, taken in Honduras, appears on the cover of the 2004 calendar. As in years past, copies of the calendar can be purchased from **Friends of Niger**. See the article below for details.



In his June 10, 1963 speech at American University, President Kennedy said:

"What kind of peace do we seek? Not a Pax Americana enforced on the world by American weapons of war. Not the peace of the grave or the security of the slave. I am talking about genuine peace, the kind of peace that makes life on earth worth living, the kind that enables men and nations to grow and to hope and to build a better life for their children -- not merely peace for Americans but peace for all men and women -- not merely peace in our time but peace for all time."

Seasonal Gifts Again Available From Friends of Niger T-Shirts, Video & Calendars

As in years past, **Friends of Niger** is again making available three high quality seasonal gift items - the 2004 International Calendar; the very well received **FON T-Shirt**; and, *Brother from Niger*, the 44-minute video production that features the work of **Friends of Niger**

Details regarding all three items can be found here. The [Friends of Niger 2004 Membership & Order Form](#) can be found here,

Take a look!! You'll like what you see!!

RPCVs Team with Maradi Area PCV in Effort to Build Well in Village of Maradi Hostel Guardian

For over ten years the Maradi Area Peace Corps Hostel has been faithfully guarded by a Wodaabe family from the village of Bammo Ibrahim. They have patiently helped generations of Peace Corps Volunteers learn the local language and culture. They are also exceptional friends and have opened their homes and families to us for many years.

Their home village of Bammo Ibrahim is currently deprived of one of the basic human necessities: water. A 40-year old well in the village went dry long ago and eight years ago the villagers hand-dug a traditional well after trying unsuccessfully to procure funding for a proper cement drinking water well. This traditional well now offers only an occasional seepage of dirty water, forcing villagers to walk 8 to 10 kilometers to pull water that they must pay for.

Peace Corps Volunteer Tara Helm is organizing a project to build a cement well in the village. She has received the maximum grant allowable through The Ambassador's Self-Help Fund and is seeking additional funding from other sources to cover the shortfall. The project requires another \$2,500 to \$3,000US. RPCV & FON member Suzanne Reasenber, (Niger '91 - '93) is helping with fund-raising in North America. For further details and/or to make a financial contribution, Suzanne can be contacted at 16

FON Announces Another Trip to Niger: Planning Begins for Early 2005

The FON Board of Directors has taken the decision to begin the planning required for a second Friends of Niger trip to Niger. The first trip took place in October 2002.

According to FON President, Jim Schneider, "tentative plans envision the 2005 trip taking place early in the year - January or February."

Schneider also indicated that the 2005 trip will include many of the same features as the highly successful 2002 event, "with, perhaps, a little more emphasis on participation in service activities or work projects."

Anyone with an interest or questions related to participation in the trip is encouraged to contact [Jim Schneider](#)

Micro Niger - How You Can Help -

Contributions to our ongoing support for microcredit in Niger should be made payable to **Friends of Niger** and sent to: **Micro Niger c/o FON, P.O. Box 33164, Washington, DC, 20033-0164** or sent along with the [Friends of Niger 2003 Membership & Order Form](#)

Vitamin Campaign - How You Can Help -

Donations to FON's ongoing vitamin campaign should be made payable to **Friends of Niger** and sent to **Vitamins, c/o FON, PO Box 33164, Washington, DC, 20033-0164** or sent along with the [Friends of Niger 2003 Membership & Order Form](#)

Video Production that Features FON Available for Purchase



The 42 minute documentary on Niger, originally produced for Canadian TV and shot in Niger in January 2002, is now available for purchase from **Friends of Niger**.

From the blurb of the video's jacket - "In a '*Brother from Niger*', award winning journalist Andrew Younger brings a story of courage, hope, and struggle from one of the world's poorest countries. '*Brother from Niger*' follows **Friends of Niger** president Jim Schneider as he returns to a country he once called home, a country that's still as poor as when he left it.

The video was shot on location in Niamey, Maradi, Matamaye, Botsotsoua, Kantche and Zinder and includes interviews with Haoua Diatta of the Oxcart Project as well as with Schneider, representatives of FON's Nigerien partner organizations and others.

Copies of the videotape may be purchased for \$20 each (2 for \$35). Use the [FON 2004 Membership & Order Form](#) or send a check or money order, made payable to **Friends of Niger**, to **Video, c/o FON, PO Box 33164, Washington, DC, 20033-0164.**

“Serve, serve, serve. That's the challenge. For in the end it will be the servants that save us all.” - Sargent Shriver .

Friends of
Niger

**You're Gonna
Love This T-Shirt**

**Available in 4
Sizes
- S, M, L, XL**



**Makes a
Great
Gift!!**

**It'll Look
Good on
You as
Well!!**

Introducing - Friends of Niger T-Shirts...
You're gonna love this T-Shirt!!

Based on a design originally created by our neighbors at Friends of Burkina Faso, **FON** had produced its first and very own T-shirt. The short-sleeved shirts are 100% cotton, pre-shrunk beefy-T, natural muslin-colored fabric. The design (above) is four color: brown, black and the orange and green of the flag of Niger. You'll notice a nifty proximity map of Niger within the map of Africa which appears in the branches of the baobab tree. The shirts are available in Small, Medium, Large and Extra Large sizes and sell for \$18 each, shipping included. Use the [FON 2004 Membership & Order Form](#) or send a check made out to **Friends of Niger** (indicating the number of shirts by size), along with your name and address to: **Shirts, c/o Friends of Niger, P.O. Box 33164, Washington, D.C., 20033-0164.**

***... And the International Calendar 2004
from RPCVs of Wisconsin-Madison
The Absolute Best Calendar on the Market!!***



Since 1987 the RPCVs of Wisconsin-Madison have been producing and distributing one of the finest quality calendars on the market - the International Calendar. This year the calendar is once again available through **Friends of Niger**. The calendar is open size, 12 1/4" x 18 3/4", features 13 color photos along with information from past and present Peace Corps service countries, and is printed with soy-based ink on recycled paper. Each day of the year is annotated with holiday and event information; each month includes information on lunar and celestial events; and each photo is complimented by material related to the country portrayed. Use the [FON 2004 Membership & Order Form](#) or send a check for \$12 US made payable to **Friends of Niger**, along with your address to: **Calendars, c/o Friends of Niger, P.O. Box 33164, Washington, D.C., 20033-0164.**



Credits and Other Information

The Camel Express is the periodical newsletter of **Friends of Niger (FON)**.

FON can be contacted via the post at **P.O. Box 33164, Washington, D.C., 20033-0164;**

by email at lorenz3@magi.com; and you will find FON on the web at the following Internet address - www.friendsofniger.org.

This edition of **The Camel Express** was prepared, produced and distributed by Sue & Don Bracken, Irma Poots Sarata, Judd Lyon, Gabriella Maertens, John Soloninka, Larry Koff, Penni St. Hilaire, Marcy Hewitt. Please send address changes and corrections, as well as any queries to **The Camel Express** at any of the addresses above.

[FRIENDS OF NIGER](http://www.friendsofniger.org)

2004 MEMBERSHIP & ORDER FORM