

STEPHEN & JULIE KNICKERBOCKER BURKINA FASO

August 2014

Dear Pastors, supporting churches and praying friends,

1st Week

We thank the Lord for giving us safe travels and bringing us to our country of service without any complications. We had a wonderful travel agent assist us as we checked in our many totes and suitcases at the Atlanta Airport, all three of our flights went smoothly, and none of our luggage pieces were lost. Our First week in Burkina, we drove around town to familiarize ourselves with the area, met with realtors, bought appliances, signed a home rental contract, looked for a vehicle, obtained a phone and local number, and officially registered ourselves for a P.O.Box Address.

2nd Week

Week 2 began with the Shumakers (the veteran missionaries we are working with) coming back from a week of teen camp. They had a wonderful response from the teenagers throughout the week with 2 young ladies from the church who accepted Christ as their Savior. We praise the Lord for this great report. I was given the opportunity to preach on the first Sunday morning meeting. On Tuesday, we met with the doctor who would deliver our child. After looking through Julie's files from the United States, we quickly learned that the due date they had given her was not accurate- she was already 36 weeks along with the pregnancy when we had been told she was 33. Also, because of her prior problems with low blood platelets, the doctor did a lot more testing and we found out that it had gotten dangerously lower than it had been previously. The doctor then recommended she be induced the next week, for fear that waiting too long would cause her too much blood loss during the birth, which could yield to much greater consequences. We then prepared for the arrival of our son who would be arriving a few weeks earlier than we thought- we bought diapers, packed the hospital bags, set up the crib, and headed to the clinic Sunday evening.

3rd Week

Monday morning, the 25th of August, marked exactly 2 weeks since we had arrived in Africa. Julie was induced, labor began around noon, and she delivered our precious son, Nathan, at 7:55 pm that same evening. As many of you have already heard, there were no complications with the baby during the course of the pregnancy; the birth could not have been better. Yet, for reasons we and the doctors still do not know, Nathan was never able to breathe on his own. After two hours of artificial breathing and continually having to bring him back to life, our sweet baby boy took his first breath in heaven with our Lord Jesus Christ. The funeral and graveside service was on Tuesday at 7:00 pm. We are thankful for God's grace and strength during this extremely difficult time. We are also very thankful for the missionaries here who have greatly helped us and encouraged us. Please keep us in your prayers as we are continually grieving the death of our son, and yet desiring to bring God the glory due his name. We are thankful that through all this, the Lord has given us joy and hope, knowing we will see Nathan again. We never thought we would bury our son as soon as we arrived to the field, but we are glad the Lord is in control and already knew the trials we would face. Along with this letter, we are sending Julie's testimony and thoughts on the whole matter. Please, take time to read it as it expresses in more details our thoughts and feeling on this entire event. You can also find her letter on our website at knickinburkinafaso.com/blog. Please, pray that the Lord gives us strength as we finalize details at the cemetery, have a tombstone built, and keep moving forward in the ministry. Looking unto Jesus,

Stephen & Julie Knickerbocker

"Blessed be God... Who comforteth us...

*that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble,
by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God"*

- 2 Corinþians 1:3-4 -

Prayer Requests

- Salvation of lost souls around us as we give the Gospel.
- God's provision for the rest of the finances as we transition to and settle in Burkina Faso- especially as we prepare to purchase a vehicle
- Our landlord's salvation (Traore)
- We are and will be grieving the death of our son. Pray for God's strength to get through the next few months.

Praises

- We have arrived to the field with no complications with flights or baggages.
- People's outpour of love, encouragement, and prayers have been overwhelming.
- We found a Home to rent and move in on September 1st.
- We have already found one guard for our home.
- Most of the major purchases we needed to make have already done
- The hospital staff was extremely helpful in making funeral arrangements for us

Contact Information

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Sending Church

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Missions Agency

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Birthdays

Stephen 9/15
Julie 9/26
Anniversary 8/7