

STEPHEN & JULIE KNICKERBOCKER BURKINA FASO

October 2014

Dear Pastors, supporting churches and praying friends,

Follow Up

God has given us the privilege to see several people come to know the Lord as their Savior this month. A few of these dear folks have shown great interest in learning more about what God has for their life. Please help us pray that we would be able to follow up with them and help them grow in the Lord. One of the difficulties in ministry here in Burkina Faso is keeping track of people. It is quite normal for the average burkinabé citizen to own two cell phones, each with a different company- this way, they can enjoy more promotions with their numbers and supposedly have a better signal throughout the country. Since all phone plans here are non-contract plans, when someone runs out of minutes, we cannot call them until they buy more minutes, and since this is a very poor country, buying minutes sometimes takes them a long time. In addition, there are no street addresses for us to find someone's home. We have to remember how to get to peoples homes after they have shown us or follow their instructions. For example: « Go past the second tree on the left and the wall is five bricks high, not 6. Neighbors usually sell tomatoes and if you see cows you've gone too far . » As you can see, it's not easy!



Family Visiting

We Praise the Lord for the time spent with Julie's mother and aunt. This was especially refreshing for Julie as she had not physically seen any of her family members since Nathan's passing. As Family always does, they brought with them good news from home, goodies, joy and laughter. We were thrilled to have them be a part of different church ministries during their visit, including helping with the grammatical corrections of the Sunday school translation work and spending time with the teenagers on Saturday evening. They enjoyed the drastic contrast between Canada and Burkina Faso, and we enjoyed seeing their reaction to this great change of scenery. We are thankful that they left just in time to miss the chaotic events that took place at the end of the month of October with Burkina Faso's government.

Drastic Government Changes

After 27 years in office, the president of Burkina Faso, Blaise Compaore, decided to try to pass an amendment to the constitution which would allow him to run again in the presidential elections next year. The opposition party organized a manifestation to protest against this amendment on October 28th, we heard that a million burkinabés showed up downtown for the planned protest. As a result of this protest and the violence that followed, not only was the vote canceled- the parliament and other government buildings and homes were set on fire, and the president was rejected from his office and position as leader of Burkina Faso. For the moment being, the General of the Burkinabe military serves as interim president. It is said that they hope to vote in a new president within the next 90 days. Burkina Faso has been a relatively stable and peaceful country, but for the moment, we are under curfew and on the lookout for violence. Our prayer is that the new leader would find a quick solution to lead his people for the best of the nation. Please help us pray for things to calm down in the capital as well. On behalf of the U.S Embassy's notice, we have stayed home for the last five days, sheltered from the mob, the tear gas, the fires in the streets and artillery shots of the military. We do not know what the future holds for the government at this moment. Please keep us and the many other missionary families here in this country in your prayers these coming months.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support.
Looking unto Jesus,

Stephen & Julie Knickerbocker

"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

Believest thou this?"

- John 11:25-26 -

Prayer Requests

- Stability in the country after the violent protest
- Comfort for families who lost loved ones in the protest
- Wisdom for the new leaders of Burkina Faso
- Salvation of lost souls around us as we give the Gospel.
- Taking Moré classes
- Bible studies with:
 - Victor
 - Paul
 - Denise
- That we would be a great help and blessing to the Burkinabés and the Shumaker Family
- Our landlord's salvation (Traore)

Praises

- We have started 3 weekly Bible studies.
- Julie's family came for a visit
- Moré classes are going well
- Led several souls to Christ this past month
- Julie and I are healthy
- Julie began teaching French and loves it!

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