

STEPHEN & JULIE KNICKERBOCKER BURKINA FASO

May 2015

Dear Pastors, supporting churches and praying friends,

What Are The Neighbors Saying?

It has been a joy to see the Lord work in and through our lives this past month. One of the highlights was when we were invited to our landlord's house for an African dinner and tea. To our surprise, as we were preparing to eat, Mr. Traore, who is muslim, asked me to pray for the meal. We praise the Lord for the favor that He has given us with him and his family. During dinner, they informed us that our neighbors have been talking to him, saying we are "the nicest white people they have ever met; unlike other white people." This was encouraging to hear as we have tried to build a positive relationship and testimony with our neighbors. We often see them smile toward us, but never did we know until this month what they truly thought of us. The Lord has given us a love for the burkinabés and it is now producing fruit in our community. Earlier in the month was a funeral procession of an elderly man who lived in one of the mud huts near our house. I made an appearance at the funeral and then to the family at their home, as is traditionally done here to show support to the family. There, we learned that many of the "well-to-do" burkinabé neighbors do not typically show up for this type of event. Showing up to this event as someone they do not know well and consider to be a "well-to-do white man" helped us establish a strong and good testimony to the community.

Why Sacrifice?

For the last 3 weeks, Alice Boyle, one of Julie's College friends, came to Burkina Faso to visit. We took the opportunity of her presence to visit a few interesting sites in the country, one of which is a plateau of natural rock peaks located about 6 hours from home. During our visit, we were given a tour by a guide who was of Animist faith. During the visit, the guide showed us a couple of places where the local people make animal sacrifices to the gods of agriculture in hopes that they will have a good harvest season. As we were walking along the trail, I asked the guide: "Who invented the idea to sacrifice to God?" He replied: "Our ancestors." I then asked him: "But who instructed *them*?" He was not sure how to respond, so I took the opportunity to share the story of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, and through that, shared the Gospel. As I continued to give the details of the Gospel with him, he repeatedly exclaimed "whoa!" He had never heard this great news before. For the first time in his life, he was introduced to "*The Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*"



Saved From Drowning

That same day, we also visited a waterfall. A man, who decided to be our guide, began to show us the prettiest places in the falls. In one area, he said that if we knew how to swim, we could jump off the top of the fall into a certain pool that was deep enough to catch us. He said that he did not know how to swim, but that if he jumped and I could be there to bring him back to shore, he would jump over the cliff and into the deep water- and he did! What faith he had in my ability to catch him and keep him from drowning! After this, I had made a new friend. I then told him "I saved you from drowning, but only Jesus can save you from your sins." Through this event, he was willing to listen to me as I shared the Gospel and I invited him for Bible studies at our home once he returns to Ouagadougou. That same evening, he came for his first study at the place where we were staying the night. It never gets old to share the Gospel!

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and partnership in the work of the Lord.
Looking unto Jesus,

Stephen & Julie Knickerbocker

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ:

*for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;
to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." - Romans 1:16*

CULTURAL CORNER

How many of you played church when you were kids? Well, children here do the same thing. Sadly, the way the kids in our neighborhood play is slightly different: one child will pretend to be possessed by a demon, rolling on the ground, while all the others yell vain, repetitive prayers and lay hands on him. Last week, they were playing in front of our gate, which gave us the opportunity to teach them about what prayer truly is. The kids loved it and we have not heard them "play church" in that same way since.

Prayer Requests

- Continued health
- Moré learning
- Bible studies with: Victor, Paul, Edgard, Ali, Francis and **Christophe (new)**
- Stable jobs for Aimer and Ali
- Our short trip to the USA on June 15th- August 7th.

Praises

- 1 new bible study started
- We have completed the 13 week Bible study with Amos.
- Julie has been greatly encouraged by her friend's visit.
- Our favorable testimony in the community
- Teaching Anthropology went well.

Contact Information

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Sending Church

- Temple Baptist Church
- Pastor Clarence Sexton
- 1700 W. Beaver Creek Dr.
- Powell, TN 37849
- (865) 938-8182
- templebaptistchurch.com

Missions Agency

- WWNTBM
- P.O. Box 725
- Kings Mountain, NC 28086
- wwntbm.com

Birthdays

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