

STEPHEN & JULIE KNICKERBOCKER BURKINA FASO

January 2016

Dear Pastors, supporting churches and praying friends,

Bible Study to Local Church

Lord willing, the year 2016 will be the year we start a church. The weekly Bible studies are a help to many, several come regularly and have shown interest in starting a church. Several weeks ago, I met a man named Ivarice. He saw me sharing the Gospel from house to house. As I was speaking with a muslim man about salvation, he told me that what I was doing was wonderful and he went on to share his testimony of salvation. As he was speaking, he expounded on how there are a lot of churches in this country, but so little truth. Since that encounter, he has been coming regularly to the Bible studies and said that he would gladly join the church once one is planted. In addition to that, he has a burden to share the Gospel with his family that lives in a village. We even had one lady come and give us her tithe this month because she believes it will be used properly when a church is started and she wants to have a part in what God is doing through the local assembly of believers. Ivarice and many others are tired of politics in the church and desire to follow the scriptures. In fact, during our last Bible study of this month, the question was raised about speaking in tongues, to which a visitor explained his experience of talking in the tongues of angels. It was encouraging to see four of our contacts kindly respond to him, explaining that we do not need to speak in tongues. (By the way, when an african has the maturity to discern that today's imitation of the day of Pentecost is not real, that is a huge victory in their personal beliefs.) I concluded that lengthy exchange by quoting 2 Timothy 3:16-17. All we need to be complete is the Bible! We had another person after that meeting that said if we started a church, they would join it. Please pray for us as we just want to be used of the Lord to see Him build His church. We are currently in the process of negotiating with the government for a piece of land for the church property. Help us pray that if the Lord closes this specific door, that we would be patient and alert as He leads us to the one He desires to open.

Soul Winning Training

I met a young christian man who is zealous to share the Gospel with others, but said that the soul winning ministry is being neglected by many churches. As we were conversing, I asked him how he would share the Gospel with someone who is lost. He then described to me how he shares the Gospel. I then asked him several question regarding what he shared to help him understand the most effective way to explain salvation. Finally, I explained to him how I present the Gospel and he marveled at how simple it was. He continued by saying that Africans need soul winning training to help them clearly present the message of salvation to the world. Because of this need, we recently began a soul winning class on Wednesday evenings.

Traveling

The Lord allowed us to minister in other churches that are pastored by nationals who have been trained by a fellow missionary. We were in the town of Kaya with pastor Konaté, about a 3 hour drive through the desert from home. Because of big rats, mosquitoes, bats and other friendly creatures, we brought a tent with us, which was a blessing. Julie taught Sunday school and I preached for the morning meeting. We were also invited to the region of Sonré, about 20 minutes from where we live. There, Pastor Mamadou asked me to preach the closing meeting of their missions conference. It was a blessing to fellowship with these pastors and their families, whom I first met on my pioneer trip to Burkina Faso in 2008 while they were still being trained for the ministry. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and partnership in the work of the Lord. Looking unto Jesus,

Stephen & Julie Knickerbocker

*"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."
Philippians 2:13*

Prayer Requests

- Continued health
- Moré learning
- Bible studies Sunday and Thursday evening
- Stable job for Aimer
- Continued peace in Burkina Faso
- For the new President to lead the nation in righteousness
- Wisdom and direction in starting a church, especially as we look into acquiring land.
- National pastor that we can train for the ministry
- New contacts who desire to begin bible studies
- The families of those that lost loved ones in a recent terrorist attack in our capital city

Praises

- We had encouraging fellowship with 2 national pastors that invited us to minister in their church
- Several people have showed interest in starting a church
- We are continuing to see folks open up to us as we live among them and attempt to speak in the native language (Moré)
- The Pastor's landing has been a great help to national pastors.

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Sending Church

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Missions Agency

- WWNTBM
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- Kings Mountain, NC 28086
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Birthdays

- Stephen 9/15
- Julie 9/26