

STEPHEN & JULIE KNICKERBOCKER BURKINA FASO

February 2016

Dear Pastors, supporting churches and praying friends,

National Pastor Training

The wonder of serving the Lord is that He works in mysterious ways. Before the end of the year 2015, our neighbor introduced us to a man who desperately wanted to meet us. We found out that this man had been serving with the Assemblies of God church as a missionary sent out of Burkina Faso to reach neighboring countries and start churches. He told us that while he was working in Ghana, he attended a conference organized by an Independent Baptist ministry. After that conference, the Lord placed in his heart the desire to be trained as a Baptist pastor and church planter. It was a joy to hear his salvation testimony, his ministry experience in church planting; however, we proceeded with extreme caution as we have heard stories of pastors from other denominations who try to associate with American missionaries for financial purposes. As we were taking our time to evaluate his intentions, we were able to see him faithfully participating in our ministry without ever asking for money. He even began asking our permission to take care of personal matters. We have started Bible classes with him to find out where he stood on doctrinal issues and in his personal life. This man's name is Jean Bosko. He is in his mid 40's, and although he has been through some difficult situations, we can easily recognize the hand of God on this man's life. We have adopted him as our assistant. He has an extensive knowledge on the religion of Islam as he was trained in a Koranic school when he was younger. He also knows the 2 most spoken tribal languages of Burkina Faso and speaks fluent French. He has assisted and helped us in the ministry in more ways than I can describe in a letter. He has clearly gone over and beyond expectations and is an outstanding aide in relating to us cultural barriers that we face on a daily basis. I know this is not the man we would have thought about to help us in the ministry, but he has filled in the gaps in areas of ministry which would be impossible for us to fill. Being an older gentleman, he has the respect of the younger generation and already has many connections to other individuals and businesses, which has been a tremendous help in decisions that we've needed to make. The main doctrines that we had to study together were the ones of Assurance of Salvation, the Holy Spirit, the gifts of the Spirit, and separation of church and state. I have now begun to teach him Hermeneutics (the art of interpreting God's Word). After I concluded teaching the introduction of that class, he said that he has gained more from it than the entire course that was taught in the Bible school of the Assemblies of God on that subject. Please pray for him as we keep teaching him God's word.

Potential Members

On the 14th of this month, we began Sunday morning Bible studies and a new members class. We have seen many people come through the Bible studies on Sunday and Thursday evenings and many have expressed interest in starting a church. As of this month, each Sunday morning, we have started teaching potential members basic doctrines and what it means to be a member of a local New Testament church. We are thrilled that the Lord is allowing us to continually see souls saved and beginning to attend the Bible studies. Please pray for wisdom as we teach and train the group that God has given us, that we may have a team ready to work together for the furtherance of the Gospel.

Moving Again

Our landlord has recently let us know that in order for us to stay in our current home, we would have to pay a hundred dollars over our budget beginning this September. We kindly told him our limited home budget and turned in our two months notice. Jean Bosko has helped us find a realtor and in about a week, the Lord provided another house for us to rent which is \$100 cheaper than the current one, and is located in the same neighborhood! We have already signed a three year contract and will plan to move by the 1st of May. This is a great blessing to us as we get the ball rolling in our ministry as far as starting our first church. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and partnership in the work of the Lord. Looking unto Jesus,

Stephen & Julie Knickerbocker



Jean Bosko is standing next to me

Prayer Requests

- Continued health
- Moré learning
- Potential members class Sunday morning
- Bible studies Sunday and Thursday evening
- Stable job for Aimer
- Continued peace in Burkina Faso
- For the President to lead the nation in righteousness
- Wisdom and direction in starting a church, especially as we look into acquiring land
- Wisdom as we train a national pastor named Jean Bosko
- New contacts who desire to begin bible studies

Praise Reports

- We have started a potential members class in view of starting a church in the upcoming months
- Jean Bosko is being trained as an assistant pastor which will be a valuable asset as we train future pastors
- Among many professions of faith, we have seen 3 young men starting to attend our meetings.

Contact Information

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- Burkina Faso
- Field Phone Number:
- (226) 67-40-36-19

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

"And the house which I build is great: for great is our God above all gods."

2 Chronicles 2:5