

STEPHEN & JULIE KNICKERBOCKER BURKINA FASO

April 2016

Dear Pastors, supporting churches and praying friends,

Teaching the Pastors Conference

The Pastors conference held every three months was scheduled for the 11th to the 13th of April. A fellow missionary in charge of organizing the meeting asked for my help in coming up with a theme to teach. I mentioned to him that one of the national pastor in training had recently shared with me his desire to learn more about the preparation and preaching process of a sermon. We decided to teach homiletics for those 3 days, centering on the importance of exposing the scriptures during preaching. I am thankful I was able to attend and sit under the teachings of professors at Bible College, where decades of ministry experience was taught- teaching which I can now relay to the Burkinabe pastors. Many pastors thanked me for the invaluable teaching which was designed to improve their personal Bible study and preaching. Through my life in ministry, I've listened to peoples comments about missionaries and they make an enormous mistake of lowering the standard of ministry on the mission field. Let us get rid of the mentality that we send the «scraps » to the mission field and keep high quality at home. We are to evangelize, but without falling short of « *Teaching them to observe all things.* »

Testimony of the Faithful

As we serve the Lord, it never gets old to see God work in and transform the lives of people. Early in the month of April, a young lady asked my wife if she could share a testimony during the Sunday meeting. This young lady is named Judith. She grew up in a Catholic home and was married in her early teenage years. After giving birth to her third child, her husband was influenced by his family to reject her, find another wife and take the children with him. At that point, she did not believe that God existed. Her sister, Christine, has been faithfully coming to the Bible studies from day one and has invited Judith to attend several times. After refusing several invitations, she finally came. When I met her, I felt great animosity coming from her toward spiritual matters. We shared the gospel with her but her heart was as hard as a rock. On a recent trip to visit family, she fell deeply sick and started to consider « what if God existed? » With her heart softened toward spiritual matters, she trusted Christ as her Savior the next time she came to the Bible study. She started to read the Bible and praying, seeing God answer her prayers for a job and for joy. She shared with us II Corinthians 12:9 « *My grace is sufficient for thee.* » The tears were rolling down her cheeks as she expressed her gratefulness to God for transforming her life.

That same morning, a young muslim man named Omar, whom I had the privilege to lead to Christ last month, raised his hand to share a testimony. He said that he had financial challenges, especially with his wife being an expectant mother. He did not have the money to visit the doctors, so in the middle of the night, he woke up his wife and told her that they needed to pray to God to help them get the money to schedule a doctors appointment. He prayed a very short prayer, saying « God, you see our need and we need your help, amen. » to which his spouse responded « You woke me up for a prayer like that? » The next day, he was suddenly given two construction jobs with an advance in pay which was more than enough to cover the medical appointment. We later found out that when his wife gave birth, all medical costs were cared for. He did not have to pay a dime! Please pray for Omar as his joy has rapidly turned to sadness. He has begun to face persecution from his Muslim family. The next Bible Study meeting, we took the time to encourage him to keep his eyes on the Lord, to remember the joy he had experienced earlier, and to pray that God would get a hold of his wife's heart. It was an encouragement to see these precious folks trusting God with their lives. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and partnership in the work of the Lord. Looking unto Jesus,



Omar, his wife and baby girl

Stephen & Julie Knickerbocker

“And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” - 2 Corinthians 12:9

Prayer Requests

- Continued health
- Moré learning
- Potential members class on Sunday mornings and Bible studies Sunday and Thursday evening
- Stable job for Aimer
- Continued peace in Burkina Faso
- Elections of Mayors coming in May
- Wisdom and direction in starting a church and training Jean Bosko.
- New contacts who desire to begin bible studies
- Construction of a storage room to be completed behind our house.
- Construction of the Church building to be completed.
- Installation of a large water tank on our home property due to extreme lack of water.
- Omar is facing family persecution.

Praise Reports

- Julie and the baby are healthy.
- We are moved into a new house.
- Wonderful time teaching the pastors conference.
- The Lord provided the \$6,000 needed for the construction of the church building.

Contact Information

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- (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