

# STEPHEN & JULIE KNICKERBOCKER BURKINA FASO

*January 2017*

Dear Pastors, supporting churches and praying friends,

## A Property for 2017

We praise God that the church is doing well, folks are growing in their faith and we are thrilled about the prospects for the year 2017. At our Thursday evening Bible study meetings, we have been teaching on "Being like Christ", looking at the living example that our Savior has given us on how to act and speak. This series of lessons has been profoundly convicting and the folks have been encouraged concerning the practical ways that we can be a light in this world. The church members have been excited about reaching the community and have asked if we could plan a special night to invite some neighbors to present them with the Gospel. We chose a Friday evening, and the church worked together to receive people into the building, watch the motorcycles and bikes parked outside, and keep the children under control. We showed a video that clearly presented the Gospel, after which I was able to preach a salvation message, translated by one of our faithful young men into the Moré dialect. We are thankful for the great outcome of this special event, but we are even more thrilled that it was not initiated by us, but by the church members. It was a joy to see them work together to reach their community.

As we continue to be faithful in our soul-winning efforts, teaching God's word and making disciples, we are facing the next big step in the ministry: a permanent property. We need to find and purchase a permanent piece of property for the church. We have been looking for a few months to see what is available. Living in the capital city of Burkina Faso may have its advantages, but it also has great challenges. Available property in this area is rare and comes at a high price. This is wonderful, because it will make God's working even more spectacular. We are currently renting a property where we hold church meetings in a metal building that can be taken down and put back up. **Please help us pray for wisdom as we seek God's will for a permanent location for the church.** We have looked and asked about land reserved for religious organizations where we would only have to pay property tax, but such reserved lots are scarce and most are already claimed. If we cannot find such a property, we'll have to purchase land in town which could cost easily over \$40,000. We know that God is in control and we are asking Him to work a miracle for this special need.

## Step Into the Building

When a person steps into a religious building, it is a sign of approval. On Sunday afternoons, we have an average of about 60 children who have begun attending our program. During this fun time of singing, scripture memory and Bible teaching, we often see a handful of children who hesitate to enter into the gathering place. It has come to our attention that some of these children do not enter because they fear their entrance into a church building would be seen by some neighbors. The neighbors could then report back to the child's parents who do not approve of his being under the influence of a different religion than the family's religion. **Pray that God would give us favor with the community so that every child who desires to come to the children's program may be able to without fear of reprisal.**

On this same subject, we have recently had a wonderful answer to our prayers. Omar, the young man who trusted Christ as his Savior last year, has been growing in his faith and praying that his wife, Safi, would begin attending church services with him. This simple gesture as been a difficult step to take for Safi. By God's grace, she has started to attend the church meetings and seems to be enjoying herself, although she has not yet professed faith in Christ as her Savior. With a smile on his face, Omar recently told me: "We don't have bread, but we have joy." **Please pray for Safi's salvation.**

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

*Stephen & Julie Knickerbocker*

*"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps." - 1 Peter 2:21*

## Prayer Requests

- Spiritual growth of the church
- A pastor to train
- A stable job for Aimer
- Making disciples
- Salvation of souls
- Omar and Bienvenu opposed by their family
- Salvation of Safi (Omar's wife)
- Permanent property for the church (\$40,000)**
- Favor with the community and mayor's office

## Praise Reports

- Our family is healthy
- Alina is full of energy
- The children are excited about the children's program.
- Safi started attending the church meetings
- Video projection went well.

## Contact Information

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## Field Address:

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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
- Alina 8/12
- Anniversary 8/7