

STEPHEN & JULIE KNICKERBOCKER BURKINA FASO

April 2017

Dear Pastors, supporting churches and praying friends,

Great victory

Praise the Lord for a great answer to prayer! Safi, Omar's wife, trusted Christ as her Savior. I met Omar over a year ago on a door to door evangelistic outreach and he trusted Christ as his Savior that very day. Since then, we visited and shared the Gospel with Safi and she slowly began attending the church meetings. Both Omar and Safi were muslims and had virtually no church experience. Some would say that it is difficult to disciple former muslims because we have to start from nothing; but that is exactly what we desire. Several people come to us with their own false idea of the Bible and christianity which can be frustrating as we have to teach them in a way that resets their doctrinal foundation. With Omar and his precious wife, we can lay a strong foundation from the beginning. Omar recently met with his father-in-law, a religious leader within the muslim community, and explained to him his and Safi's new faith in Christ. Surprisingly, this man responded by saying that as long as they were united, that was all that mattered to him. Having this influential family member of a distinctively different religion accept their change of faith is nothing short of a miracle. Please pray for Omar who has a very unstable job situation and pray for Safi's faith to grow as we disciple her.



First Lord's supper and « Pot-Luck »

With the beginning of a church comes many firsts. This month, we gathered together on a Sunday evening and partook of the Lord's Supper with the new members of the church. It was a precious and sobering time shared together. Afterwards, we asked the members what they thought of the meeting, and one young man told us he felt honored to share this special time with the church family. Being a former muslim, he appreciated the reverence of this moment and looks forward to the next time the church gathers to partake of the Lord's supper. We also hosted our first « Pot-Luck » meal after the Resurrection Sunday service, enjoying a wonderful time of fellowship while sharing what everyone prepared with those who typically come the 5 visitors that joined us on that day.

Preparation for our absence

We are currently in Canada spending some time with Julie's family and introducing them for the first time to Alina. We were able to renew my drivers license in Tennessee and have enjoyed seeing family and friends. The Lord has also allowed us to give a report of our work in a few of our supporting churches. While we were preparing for our three week trip, we wanted to have the faithful folks of the church be involved in leading the church meetings and Bible studies during our absence. We were thrilled to see them eagerly volunteer to lead singing, teach the studies, lead the prayer meetings and work with the children. We wrote out and printed different studies which could be read during the evening meetings of the church. In addition, we invited three missionary friends who have been serving in Burkina Faso to speak for the Sunday morning meetings. We look forward to our return to Burkina to get a full report on how the ministry kept going during our absence of 3 week.

Funds for a church property

During our time in the USA, we were able to return to our home church and give a report of God's working through our ministry. Our Pastor was led of the Lord to take up a special offering to help us with the funds that we are raising (\$40,000) for a permanent property for the Bible Baptist Church of Boulmiougou. A couple of other churches have also generously participated with special gifts for this project, bringing the current total of property funds to **\$9,297**.

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

Stephen & Julie Knickerbocker

Prayer Requests

- Spiritual growth of the church
- A pastor to train
- A stable job for Aimer & Omar
- Faithfulness of the church folks during our absence
- Return to Burkina Faso on the 8th of May
- Permanent property for the church (\$40,000+)**
- Favor with the community and the mayor's office

Praise Reports

- Salvation of Safi (Omar's wife)
- Our family is healthy
- Spending a great time with our family and friends
- Encouraged to visit our home church
- \$9,297** has been donated for land purchase!

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
- Alina 8/12
- Anniversary 8/7

"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 9:16*