

STEPHEN & JULIE KNICKERBOCKER BURKINA FASO

May 2017

Dear Pastors, supporting churches and praying friends,

Back in Burkina

We have returned safely to West Africa after a tiring but refreshing trip to North America. We had the opportunity to visit family, friends and several supporting churches. We also had the honor to present our ministry to the First State Baptist Church which my brother, Samuel Knickerbocker, recently started in the city of Wilmington, Delaware. It was quite a treat to be with them and to see the Lord using our family for His glory in this church plant. Sam called me last week to let us know that the church had voted to take us on for support as their first missionaries. I am so thrilled to see my little brother serving the Lord with his precious family. It was neat to see Alina interact with her cousins for the first time. Thankfully, when returning to Burkina, the house was still standing and we found out that the folks were still attending the church meetings in our absence. I have to say, it is good to be back home and to get back into the work of church planting. Julie and Alina were both fighting bronchitis when we returned but they are now healed and feeling much better. Thank you for your prayers for us during this trip to the US and Canada.

Since our return to Burkina Faso, a young man from the community named Solomon visited the church. After taking the time to get to know him, I quickly found out that his father is a preacher in an evangelical church. When I confronted him with the Gospel, his reply was « my father is a pastor. » I explained to him that his father could not wash away his sins, but that the blood of Jesus-Christ could. That same day, he trusted Christ as his personal Savior and has since been faithfully coming to church. We also have a neighbor named Zeinaba Conobo, who we have befriended last year through our door to door soul-winning efforts. We praise the Lord that her heart has become tender to the Gospel of Christ. She said that if she is going to trust Christ, she wants to do it whole heartedly. Please pray for her for I sense that she is close to trusting Christ, and pray that the Lord would grant us wisdom as we want to stay sensitive to her questions and the Holy Spirit's leading.

Mother's Day

This month was Mother's day, a truly special time for our ladies, but especially for Julie who has been able to hold her living child while celebrating motherhood. We had a great time presenting a gift to the mothers who attend the meetings exhorting them through a message about the faith of Timothy's mother. Along with mother's day, Julie has been holding ladies' meetings once a month where she teaches a Bible lesson and then teaches the ladies a practical craft. She has been having a good time with the ladies of the church, and they are now asking impatiently for the dates of the next meetings! I always enjoy hearing about how the ladies were blessed by my wife's ministry.

The charter members

The Lord allowed us to have our first business meeting with the charter members of Bible Baptist Church of Boulmiougou. Five burkinabé have completed the discipleship course and have agreed to the doctrinal statement, the bylaws and the constitution of the church. We are grateful to have been able to organize the church and reiterated its vision and mission. Since we've been back in Burkina Faso, we've had several encouraging conversations with the church folks about their increased faith. Omar told us that every time that he returns home from work he sees his wife, Safi, reading the Bible outside in front of all the neighbors. He has made it clear to us that it amazes him that she isn't ashamed of her change of faith. He also said that she has been asking questions when she reads something that she does not understand. Pray for Safi as Julie will begin discipling her in the upcoming weeks. I also had a great conversation with Serge, who mentioned a message I had preached to the church many months ago, noting that he had been dwelling on the truths of God's word from that sermon and wanted some more guidance in applying it to his life. We praise God for the small group that God has given us to shepherd.

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

Stephen & Julie Knickerbocker

“When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.” - 1 Timothy 1:5



Prayer Requests

- Salvation of the lost
- Spiritual growth of the church
- A pastor to train
- Salvation of Zeinaba
- Spiritual growth of Salomon
- A stable job for Aimer, Omar, Aristide and Ring
- Permanent property for the church (\$40,000+)**
- Favor with the community and the mayor's office

Praise Reports

- Safe return to Burkina Faso
- We had a refreshing time in the US and Canada
- Our family is healthy
- Salvation of Salomon
- We have charter members
- Folks are growing in their faith
- \$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