

STEPHEN & JULIE KNICKERBOCKER BURKINA FASO

June 2017

Dear Pastors, supporting churches and praying friends,

The Ladies Ministry

What a blessing to see the Ladies' ministry really take off! Since beginning monthly meetings, there has been a strong sense of camaraderie among the women of the church. They have started praying, visiting and helping each other, even staying long after church meetings are over to fellowship and enjoy each other's company. We are praying the Lord will keep knitting them together in friendship and give them a greater burden to reach other ladies from the community. This month, the women of the church were invited to participate in a ladies' conference hosted and planned by another Independent Baptist church in town. There, Julie and other missionary wives had the opportunity to teach on personal evangelism. Our ladies left the conference encouraged and with a greater burden for the lost! Julie was also able to begin weekly discipleship lessons with Safi, teaching her « Truths Every Christian Needs to Know » so that she may better understand the Christian faith. Julie has also begun weekly discipleship lessons with Christine, teaching through a series called « Foundations for life. » Please pray as the ladies seek to grow in the Lord, learn more from the Bible and apply its truths to their lives.



Prize for scripture memory

The Search for Land

We've spent quite a bit of our time this month going back and forth to view different properties for sale. Some are near the current rental location of the church while others are too far to consider buying. Please keep praying the Lord would give us favor with those who own land and with the government. We are staying encouraged, as we know God is in control, and the church members are faithfully searching and seeking His will in this matter. It has been encouraging to see different church members contacting friends to search for a lot of land. Although we are looking at things realistically, we also know that we serve a miracle working God and we are praying for a miracle. At the moment, the government is still not allowing government reserved pieces of land to be handed out. We are praying that God would make it clear to us if we need to wait until the « breaks » are pulled off from the land distribution, or if we need to search only for privately owned properties and be prepared to pay more. Thank you for those who have already donated toward this very present need. Please keep praying the Lord would give us wisdom and peace about where and how to move forward in this matter. Pray That the Lord also gives us patience in this matter, as we do not want to make a move without His leading. Thankfully, we have been able to build a budding friendship with the town mayor and his wife. This man holds a lot of influence in the community's decisions and has the capability to pull aide us where needed. We were blessed to receive him and his wife for supper this month and are hopeful that this friendship will influence them positively for the Lord.

A Busy Summer

This month, I've had the privilege of beginning to study to obtain a Masters of Ministry degree through the online program of the Crown College of the Bible. After speaking to our Pastor, Pastor Sexton, about our future plans for the Lord's work in Burkina Faso, he recommended that I consider furthering my Education through an online program. This training will allow us to sharpen our axe in order to move forward in the ministry. We praise the Lord for this opportunity, and ask for your fervent prayers as the next two years will be quite busy, working with the people here and strengthening the church while doing much extra studying. Since summer vacation has begun, we have several new events planned in the next two months, such as a preaching seminar, family conference, teen Camp, Children's Bible club week, Patriotic Sunday and friend day. Please pray as we orchestrate these events, that the Lord will be lifted up and that He would use the teaching and preaching to strengthen the believers and save the unbelievers.

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

Stephen & Julie Knickerbocker

“...The Lord is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you...” - 2 Chronicles 15:2

Prayer Requests

- Spiritual and physical growth of the church
- A pastor to train
- Salvation of Zeinaba
- Family conference (July 20-23)
- Monday Evening preaching seminar (Next 2 months)
- 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

- Ring and Zara dedicated their newborn, Julie, to the Lord.
- 2 children from the children's ministry have memorized the gospel and enough verses to earn a T-shirt.
- Start of Master's program.
- Friendship and growth among the ladies.
- Newly started men's ministry.
- We welcomed the mayor in our home for a meal.
- New discipleship started and folks are growing in their faith
- \$9,297** has been donated for land purchase!

Contact Information

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Sending Church

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Missions Agency

WWNTBM
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Birthdays

Stephen 9/15
Julie 9/26
Alina 8/12
Anniversary 8/7