

STEPHEN & JULIE KNICKERBOCKER BURKINA FASO

October 2017

Dear Pastors, supporting churches and praying friends,

School Starting

School is back in session and people's schedules are not as free as they were during the summer months. The young Bienvenu is faithful and has graduated at the top of his class, earning him a scholarship to a private University. Although he has a free private education ahead of him, his family was not in a position to pay for the required registration fee. A wealthy uncle in the family has said that he would only pay for Bienvenu's education if he went to the State run University, which is known for being a disastrous educational institution. Bienvenu was greatly discouraged, seeing his future being ripped away from him through circumstances that he could not change and felt abandoned by his uncle. He began to pray that the Lord would change his uncle's heart. As the registration date arrived, the Lord impressed on our hearts to help Bienvenu with his registration fee (\$300). As the news reached his uncle that someone had decided to pay for Bienvenu's registration fee so that he would not have to attend the State University, the uncle immediately had a change of heart and decided to take care of the registration fee. In His own timing, the Lord answered this specific request! Bienvenu has started his education and is already referred to as « pastor » for his bold witnessing for the Lord. With such a great gift from his uncle, several family members have expressed jealousy toward Bienvenu. Help us Pray that Bienvenu's family would support him instead of oppose him and that he would continue to boldly proclaim Christ to his classmates.



Update on land

Since the beginning of the year, we have been looking for a piece of property in our area and have patiently waited on the mayor's office to give us a favorable response concerning our land request and project for the community. This month, we heard that the government employees have finished surveying available pieces of land, and that although we are the only ones who asked for the specific lot near our house, the request will not be granted for another year or two as other projects in the area are considered more important. We have been told by several Burkinabe friends that, often times, the only way to get things moving forward is to pay off a government official with bribe money. If the Lord chooses to give us a piece of property from the government, it will be His doing only, not ours. With this said, with God's enabling, we will most definitely be purchasing private property in the near future. Please pray for us as we continue to look and negotiate, that the Lord would soften the hearts of the sellers. We praise God that another one of our supporting churches has generously donated \$2,000 toward the purchase of a church property.

Why I am Baptist?

The Lord impressed upon me to hold a special meeting on the subject of "why I am Baptist?" We desire to help the church members understand where we stand and how to explain the historical significance of Baptist people in a country where everyone believes Christians are either Catholic or Protestant. We are pleased to say that this meeting was a success! We invited other Baptist churches from the capital city of Ouagadougou to participate in this exciting event. We had 8 speakers (Missionaries and national pastors) among whom 4 preached on a Baptist distinctive while the 4 others shared a personal testimony of what it means to them to be Baptist. One of our new converts told me that when she started coming to our church, one of her neighbors told her to stop going to the Baptist church because they have demons. She ignored that futile attempt to make her stop coming then told me that after hearing about the history of the Baptists, she is more sure than ever that she is where she ought to be. Please pray for this young lady named Lucy. She has a lot of things to overcome in her life, but we know that she is on the right track. She has also been inviting her friends to church and has said "I hope that they will come to church when they see my changed life."

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

Stephen & Julie Knickerbocker

*"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."
Romans 14:12*

Prayer Requests

- Wisdom and patience in seeking for land
- Permanent property for the church (\$40,000+)**
- Spiritual and physical growth of the church
- A pastor to train
- Salvation of Zeinaba & Abdoulaye
- A stable job for Aristide and Serge
- Favor with the community and the mayor's office
- Bienvenu's University education
- Lucy's spiritual growth
- soap and taxi-moto business

Praise Report

- A total of **\$11,297** has been donated for land purchase!
- We had quality family time on a quick getaway.
- Our church members are witnessing to others.

Contact Information

- knickinburkina@gmail.com
- knickinburkinafaso.com

Field Address:

- Stephen Knickerbocker
- 10 BP 13671 Ouagadougou 10
- 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