STEPHEN & JULIE OCKER **NICKE** BURKINA FASC

May 2019

Dear Pastors, supporting churches and praying friends,

Reporting in churches It has been a blessing to return to some of our supporting churches and report on the things that God has accomplished through our lives and ministry. We visited 7 churches in which we gave a report and got the encouraging news that 2 new churches have determined to take us on for support. During our travels, we also had the opportunity to attended my commencement exercise at Crown College and Seminary, to organize a Knickerbocker family reunion, to take a family getaway with Julie's father, and to visit friends and family.

We are thankful for a church that gave a \$1,000 toward the building project in Burkina. Should anyone desire to donate funds for the advancement of this building project, please designate the funds for the "church building." Donations may be sent to: World Wide New Testament Baptist Missions P.O. Box 725, Kings Mountain, NC 28086 or click here to donate online.



Need \$30,000



Extended stay in the USA

Since we have been back in

America, we have progressed with Julie's paper work to eventually become a US citizen. Due to the brevity of our trip, we were not able to get the necessary appointment with the government to advance with the protocol. We cannot leave until she receives a specific document lest her green card may be taken away next time we enter the USA. For this reason, we have extended our stay in the USA from the 29th of May to the 18th of June. According to the immigration lawyer working with us, this extension of 20 days should give ample time for Julie's appointment to be scheduled.

Please pray that the folks in Burkina would not worry about the rescheduling of our return. We are pleased to report that up to this point, attendance has been good during our absence.

Churches targeted by terrorists In our January prayer letter, we described the precarious

security status in Burkina Faso, and unfortunately, it has only gotten worse in the last few months. The last two months have revealed clearly that terrorists have began to boldly kidnap and murder individuals and to target churches. Multiple churches have been burned, church leaders have been executed, and church goers have been killed or made to flee. Schools are closing all over the country and villagers are fleeing to the capital for refuge. Although these events were located far from our present location in the capital, this is evidently a deep concern for the safety for our family. The US Embassy has recently increased their "NO GO" zones to include most of the country, except the capital. We are planning to go back to Burkina Faso, and will be increasingly vigilant and sensitive to the Lord's leading as we do what is best for our family and ministry. Please help us pray that God would help the government to get a handle on the terrorist activities in Burkina Faso and pray for our safety and that of the other Christians in the country. We understand that God is at work and that this tragedy could give way to a wonderful moving of God's Spirit.

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

Stephen 🕲 Julie Knickerbocker

"He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord." - Psalm 112:7

Prayer Requests

-Safety as we travel in the USA -Safe return to Burkina Faso on the 18th of June -Julie's paper work for US citizenship -Safety and wisdom for church construction project -Building funds: \$30,000 -Transition of the church to the new property -The fight against terrorism in

- Burkina Faso
- -Spiritual and physical growth of the church
- -A pastor to train
- -Salvation of Zeinaba,
- Abdoulaye, & the chief
- -A stable job for Vincent, Blaise, David, and Serge
- -Bienvenu's University education -Continued health for our family

Praise Report

-\$1,000 was given for construction project -I graduated with my master in ministry from Crown Seminary

-We had a wonderful Knickerbocker family reunion -Church attendance in Burkina is staying good.

Contact Information

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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 Kezia 5/26
- Anniversary 8/7