

STEPHEN & JULIE KNICKERBOCKER BURKINA FASO

November 2019

Dear Pastors, supporting churches and praying friends,



Church location transition

The construction is moving along and the metal structure for the main auditorium has been moved to the new location. In this transition time, we have been holding church meetings at our place until the concrete flooring of the auditorium can be poured. We desired to be done with the flooring before the anniversary of the church, but the work load was excessive and we had several setbacks. Please pray as we plan to permanently transition the church meetings to the new property in mid-December.

Church anniversary

With a grateful heart, we celebrated the 3rd anniversary of the church on this last Sunday of November. We thank the Lord for the past year; He has answered prayers, we have seen tremendous spiritual growth and we have all worked hard to prepare the new property. Much has been accomplished with the Lord's guidance and help! We are especially grateful for the faithfulness of the members who have been with us from the beginning and still have a thirst for the Scriptures. It is a joy to minister to saints who want to grow.

Security update

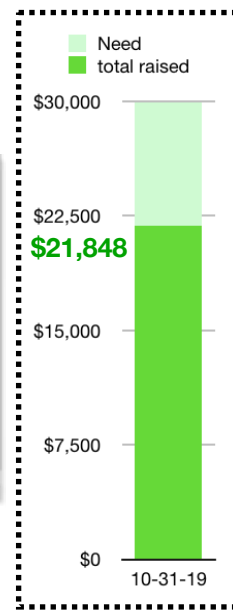
On November 27th, we received several security updates from the US Embassy in Burkina Faso. The first informed us that the US had raised the security level on their travel advisory to Level 4. Level 4 is the highest risk level, meaning « DO NOT TRAVEL ». Only 14 countries in the world currently have a level 4 travel alert. The reasons given for the increased travel alert is « due to **terrorism, crime, and kidnapping**. » The second security update informed us that because of the travel advisory change, the US Embassy has ordered the departure of U.S. mission (embassy) family members under the age 21, and has granted voluntary departure of other embassy staff. A travel advisory change from level 3 to 4, and the beginning of embassy staff departure were our family's personal « red flags » when it came to our personal security plan. We knew that if these events happened, we would need to contact our home church. We have informed our pastor of the situation and he has expressed that we should return to the US. We are, therefore, planning to return to the US mid December to put the family to safety. Please pray for us as we prepare the church for our absence. We are very heavy hearted over this sudden change, the situation in the country, and are burdened for the burkinabé who must face the struggles ahead. Please pray for the Burkinabé who are facing a real threat.

I am already making plans to make several trips to Burkina Faso to carry on with the ministry before our furlough in August 2020. Over the next few months, we will be assessing the safety climate in Burkina Faso to see if the situation improves. We are praying and trusting God that the security situation would improve quickly, so that we may all return to Burkina, our home, and carry on with the calling and work that the Lord has given us to accomplish. We will be giving more information on this subject in the upcoming months. Please, do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

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

Stephen & Julie Knickerbocker

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” - Romans 8:28



Prayer Requests

- Urgent trip back to the US because of the security degradation in Burkina
- Provision for our temporary move to the US
- Wisdom in planning trips back to the Burkina to carry on with the ministry
- Car debt: \$6,600.
- Building funds: \$8,152 needed
- Safety and wisdom for church construction project
- Transition of the church to the new property
- The fight against terrorism in Burkina Faso
- Spiritual and physical growth of the church
- Salvation of Zeinaba, Abdoulaye, & the chief
- A stable job for Vincent, Blaise, David, Bienvenu, and Serge

Praise Report

- A new visitor came to church recently with his wife and 2 kids and appears to have a genuine interest in spiritual things.
- We celebrated the 3rd anniversary of the church
- Moussa got a job offer in Ghana

Contact Information

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Sending Church

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Missions Agency

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Birthdays

Stephen 9/15
Julie 9/26
Alina 8/12
Kezia 5/26
Anniversary 8/7