

STEPHEN & JULIE KNICKERBOCKER BURKINA FASO

January 2020

Dear Pastors, supporting churches and praying friends,

Faithful Men's meeting

We were refreshed to be back at our home church at the beginning of this new year. We are grateful for a pastor who preaches God's word and for the fellowship we've enjoyed with God's people. What a treasure it has been to be back home for a bit and be so encouraged by those praying for us in our current, difficult situation. Right before my return to Burkina Faso, my pastor asked me to preach one of the sessions for the yearly Faithful Men's Meeting. What a great privilege it was for me to exhort men concerning the theme of "speaking the truth in love." You can listen to the video broadcast at faithforthefamily.com.



Omar and Safi's wedding

Upon arrival in Burkina Faso, the priority was to prepare for the wedding ceremony of Omar and Safi. I am thrilled to report that this much anticipated wedding day was a success. It was a joyous time and a great opportunity to present the Gospel to several of Omar and Safi's muslim family members who came to church for the ceremony. Although Julie's presence was greatly missed, she was able to participate from afar by rallying friends from Tennessee to

find a wedding dress for Safi and by coaching me through the process of making brownies for a crowd. It was a joy to see the folks of the church work together to make that special day memorable.

Construction progress

It was encouraging to see that the construction site had advanced during our absence. Because of the urgency of the situation and the short amount of time I can manage certain projects on the job site, I made the decision to give a salary to several folks of the church who have experience in construction, but who were not able to volunteer in the past. Due to this decision, the construction is moving faster than ever before. We are asking the Lord that we would be able to finish the walls and roofs before my 1 month stay in Burkina ends.

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



Stephen & Julie Knickerbocker

"Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." - Jude 21

Prayer Requests

- Provision for our temporary move to the US
- Get much done during my 1 month stay in Burkina Faso
- Wisdom in planning trips back to Burkina to carry on with the ministry
- Car debt: \$5,000.
- Building funds: \$8,152 needed
- Training of the faithful men of the church that they may carry on with the ministry
- Safety and wisdom for church construction project
- The fight against terrorism in Burkina Faso
- Spiritual and physical growth of the church
- A stable job for Vincent, Blaise, David, Bienvenu, and Serge

Praise Report

- We were greatly encouraged to hear about folks praying for us.
- Omar and Safi's wedding ceremony went well.
- Several churches have donated extra funds to help us transition the family in the US.

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