

STEPHEN & JULIE KNICKERBOCKER BURKINA FASO

February 2020

Dear Pastors, supporting churches
and praying friends,

Structural work complete

It is with great joy that we report that the month of February has seen the completion of the structural work on the church's construction site. The remaining work includes the installation of windows and doors, the electrical wiring, the tiling of the bathroom, and the finishing touches of plaster and paint. When we completed the kitchen, the ladies of the church were thrilled to see a functional area where they can prepare meals for different events. Please keep praying for the funds needed (\$4,615) to complete the building project. Thank you for all who have prayed and given for this project.



A church member restored

Since joining the church over two year ago, one of the young single guys in the church named Blaise met and got interested in a young lady named Ivette. She was born in a Catholic family and there was no way for her family to approve her union to Blaise because of religious differences. Due to the family opposition and my council to wait for her conversion to Christ before considering marriage, Blaise and Ivette decided to follow their emotions which led to her being with child. For several months, Blaise stopped coming to church because he knew that he had sinned and was ashamed. He eventually wrote me a letter explaining the situation and expressing his desire to come back to church. I met with him and Ivette several times and explained to him that he would need to go before the church to confess what he did and ask forgiveness. He did so and the church members were encouraged by Blaise's desire to be reconciled to the church. The following Sunday, Blaise was in church accompanied by Ivette and their newborn daughter, Rachel. This was the first time that Ivette came to a Sunday morning meeting at our church. Since the birth of their

daughter, the Catholic family has agreed to approve the union of their daughter to Blaise and family presentations were done. Please pray for Ivette's salvation and for Blaise as he is faced with the responsibility of caring for his family.

Leadership in the church

During my four weeks in Burkina, we accomplished much during our meetings with the faithful men of the church. These meetings were filled with many ideas that each one presented so that the church may progress for the honor of the Lord. The sense of unity is strong in the church and the vision is clear, but we concluded that there seemed to be a lack of initiative and mutual motivation. We talked about the importance of having initiative and motivating one another to serve the Lord in the church. After leaving Burkina again, I was encouraged by the report that visitors were present in the services and that Bienvenu held a leadership meeting with the members of the church to motivate and exhort them to take action for the future success of the church. Julie also received a message from Christine, asking for help in leading a monthly ladies meeting. In addition, Bienvenu led a soul winning effort after the Sunday morning meeting which was attended by several men in the church. We were also pleasantly surprised to hear of a young man named Moussa, whom we had witnessed to during a soul-winning effort in 2016. He had kept the tract that we gave him for 4 years! He recently re-read it and accepted the Lord as His Savior. Since then, he has contacted me to let me know of his decision to trust Christ and Bienvenu has informed me that Moussa started attending the church services. Please pray for the church to persevere in moving forward for the cause of Christ. Our prayer is that the progress of the church would be greater in our absence than in our presence.

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

Stephen & Julie Knickerbocker

"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." - Philippians 2:12

Prayer Requests

- Settling temporarily in US
- Wisdom in planning trips back to Burkina to carry on with the ministry
- Car debt: \$4,000.
- Building funds: \$4,615 needed
- Bienvenu as he leads the church in our absence
- 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
- Salvation of Ivette

Praise Report

- A church has given toward the car debt
- Church member was restored
- The structural work of the church building is complete
- Bienvenu is leading in our absence with great initiative

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