

# The **KNICKERBOCKER** family

church planting in Burkina Faso

## October 2020

Dear Pastors, supporting churches and praying friends,

### Strengthening what remains

We praise the Lord that my trip back to Burkina was a success. I had the opportunity to refresh the faith of the believers, restart the weekly kids Bible club, restart the weekly soul winning efforts, advance the church building project, and establish a national pastor as interim pastor to help the church. We had several first time visitors on Sunday mornings, one of whom was a young muslim man who later made a profession of faith in Christ. We encountered this young man, named Choucrat, during our soul-winning efforts and he showed up to the church meeting the next Sunday morning. After visiting with him and explaining the Gospel as clearly and completely as possible, he prayed to trust Christ as his personal Savior. He testified several days later that he now has peace and joy which he had never known before. I started discipling him, one on one, and he is now paired up with a member of the church to continue the one on one discipleship. Please pray for Choucrat to grow in his faith. Pray also for his family, especially his father, who is a well respected muslim in the community.

### Interim pastor

Mamadou Ouedraogo was trained by one of my missionary friends and has ten years of experience as pastor of a local church. After exchanging with this veteran missionary friend concerning the need of leadership in the church, we agreed that it would be a good idea to have Mamadou as Interim pastor of the church until we returned to Burkina Faso as a family. I conducted several interviews with brother Ouedraogo and determined, with God's help, to present him to the folks of the church as interim pastor. Helping the church in this transition was the greatest need the church had and the greatest reason for my return to Burkina Faso in October. It was an encouragement to have Him established in a position of leadership. Please pray for Mamadou and his family as they help Bienvenu in leading the church spiritually.



### Schizophrenia in Burkina

The biggest challenge I faced upon my return to Burkina was David's declining mental health condition. We found out he was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia, which explain many of his sudden and erratic recent action. Because of this condition, he was not himself, perturbing the folks of the church and scaring his family. His behavior was threatening, and although he was taken to a doctor for treatment, he escaped, fearing what the treatment would do to him. This has been going on for months and his conduct had gone from bad to worst. When I arrived in Burkina, I was immediately grieved to see David in this condition. After trying to help him for two weeks, then getting several calls from people who were affected by him, I got in contact with the police. The police is familiar with David's condition and are ready to assist by escorting him to the doctor in order to ensure he receives treatment without harming others. Thankfully, since the involvement of the police, David has been taking his treatment and is recovering. Before returning to the USA, David's family was so thankful for his improved condition that they showered me with gift: freshly harvested peanuts, and a bottle of Coca-cola. It was encouraging to see David acting and feeling like himself again. Please pray for him, that he would recover completely from his latest episode and that God would provide the funds for the continuous treatment he needs. Thank you to all of those who have prayed for David.

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

*Stephen & Julie Knickerbocker*

*"If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them" - Jeremiah 18:8*

### Prayer Requests

- Julie's pregnancy
- Elections in Burkina (Nov. 22)
- Building funds: \$2,115 needed
- Bienvenu and Mamadou as they lead 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
- Spiritual and physical growth of the church
- A stable job for Vincent, Blaise, David, Bienvenu, and Serge
- Salvation of Ivette

### Praise Report

- Marc's wedding went well
- Encouraging time with family in France
- A successful trip to Burkina
- The salvation of Choucrat
- Mamadou as interim pastor
- Julie got her driver's license

### Contact Information

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### 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