

The **KNICKERBOCKER** family

church planting in Burkina Faso

December 2021

Dear Pastors, supporting churches and praying friends,

Bienvenu's ministry

Although Bienvenu has expressed that he does not sense the desire to be a pastor, his involvement in ministry has been a tremendous encouragement to us. He stays very busy with his business, but he is also very active in the church's activities. He asked if I could give him an opportunity to preach before I return to the USA for Christmas since he wanted me to observe him and give input on how to improve. This was a pleasant surprise and he preached on the second Sunday of December. To say that I was encouraged by his preaching would be an understatement. His message was doctrinally sound and his spirit was Christ-honoring. It was a heart-warming time to see our investment manifest fruit—Praise the Lord! Not only is Bienvenu implicated in ministry, but David and Serge are heavily involved as well which provides a rotation for the multiple teaching events in our church. Please pray for Serge, David, and Bienvenu as they teach and preach in my 4 weeks of absence.

Home for Christmas

After landing in the USA on the 15th of December, I took an Uber ride home. I walked up to our front door with the eagerness of little child about to open his biggest gift ever for Christmas. Sure enough, my family was in the living room and saw my head appearing outside the front window. Kezia was the first one to reach the door and as she reached over to embrace her "dada," she gave me the biggest hug ever. This was my gift for Christmas—seeing my family after four months of absence. This moment of returning to my precious God-given family was so valuable to me that I will cherish it for ever. I thank the Lord for this foretaste of heaven on this side of eternity!



Returning to Burkina

It is hard to go back and forth from one nation to another with the desire to be with my family and to minister. We know that this is temporary and we are eager to get Julie's citizenship settled so that we may return to Burkina Faso as a family. We still have not heard from the government concerning the final interview for Julie; thus, I will be making another trip to Burkina Faso for 2 months. I am scheduled to leave for Burkina on the 14th of January 2022. I am grateful to the Lord for enabling Julie to care for our children during my absence. Please continue to pray for us as I help the church in developing national leadership and for Julie as she cares for Korben, Kezia, and Alina.

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

Looking unto Jesus,

Stephen & Julie Knickerbocker

"And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb" - Rev. 6:16

Prayer Requests

- Training Serge for the ministry
- Spiritual growth of Christian, Valentin, Choucrat, Michel, and Romaric
- Julie's biometrics appointment for citizenship (\$1,295 attorney fees)
- Julie as she stays States side with the children
- Korben, Alina, and Julie's visa
- Completion of building project
- Business success for Choucrat and Bienvenu
- Training of the faithful men of the church
- Spiritual and physical growth of the church
- A stable job for Vincent, David, and Serge
- The fight against terrorism

Praise Report

- Home for Christmas
- A supporting church donated \$500 toward Julie's paperwork fees!
- Good report of Christmas and New year's celebration at the church in Burkina Faso

Contact Information

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Sending Church

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Missions Agency

WWNTBM
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Birthdays

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