

The **KNICKERBOCKER** family

church planting in Burkina Faso

May 2022

Dear Pastors, supporting churches and praying friends,

Julie's proof of residency

We were anticipating to make the announcement that Julie is a US citizen; but, although she passed every test, meets all requirements, and has submitted substantial documentation from the last 10 years, her interviewer wanted more documentation to prove her US residency. They have given us a few weeks to submit additional evidence, which we are currently gathering. Please pray that what we submit will be sufficient. This is a set back, and in the moment, it was incredibly discouraging. Although we do not understand why this is happening, God knows best about the timing of this situation. I will be returning to the US to help the family, Lord willing, transition back to Burkina Faso. Please pray for a smooth transition. We've given ourselves 3 months to finish taking care of all the paperwork we will need once Julie is granted citizenship and to sell what we will not take with us back to Burkina Faso.

Trip to Senegal

While Julie and I were on deputation in 2013, we had the privilege of meeting Josh and Julie Mead in a missions conference. They had completed a first term in Senegal and were planing to return to plant their first church. Senegal is over 95% muslim and there are laws that restrict outreach ministries. It was a thrill to spend a week with the Mead family and get to know the folks of their church. Josh asked me to do an interview with him on our lives and ministry in Burkina Faso. He has a podcast entitled "The missionary perspective" where you can find great content concerning missionary life and ministry. You may find the interview through the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OndmeYcoaxs>.



Rodrigue sharing his salvation testimony

A new disciple

We are continuing with the Bible study in Saaba and are excited about the advancements of that ministry. One of Adama's family members who has been coming to the Bible study is Rodrigue. Rodrigue was a backslidden catholic who became skeptical of christianity after attending a protestant church. After attending the Bible study in Saaba for a couple of weeks, he was impressed by the simple Bible teaching, the opportunity to ask questions and the changed life of Adama. He told me that he never thought that Adama could amount to anything good. He was shocked by the radical change in Adama's life and declared: "If Adama's life can change, then my life can change as well!" He said that he wanted to be baptized like Adama, which led me to ask him about his salvation testimony. He gladly expressed that after a couple of Bible studies, he responded to the Gospel invitation and trusted Christ as Savior. This was a joyous moment for Adama and we are eagerly anticipating Rodrigue's baptism next month. His family members are already calling him pastor because of his thirst for the Bible. Although we do a Bible study each week at Saaba, there are 5-6 men who gather almost every day with Adama to read the Bible on their own time. Praise the Lord for people who are still thirsting for the water of the word of God!

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

Stephen & Julie Knickerbocker

"Be strong and courageous... for there be more with us than with him." - 2 Chronicles 32:7

Prayer Requests

- Additional paperwork to be sufficient for Julie's US citizenship
- Our transition back to Burkina as a family
- Training Serge for the ministry
- Spiritual growth of Valentin, Michel, Adama, Salamata, **Frederick, and Rodrigue**
- Korben, Alina, and Julie's visa
- Training of the faithful men of the church
- Spiritual and physical growth of the church
- A stable job for Vincent, David, and **Adama**
- The fight against terrorism

Praise Report

- Salvation of Rodrigue
- Wonderful trip to Senegal
- Aiming to be back in Burkina as a family by September
- New participants in the soul winning efforts
- Returning to the US to help in transitioning back to Burkina as a family
- The whole family is doing well

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
Korben 12/7
Anniversary 8/7