

The **KNICKERBOCKER** family

church planting in Burkina Faso

December 2022

Dear Pastors, supporting churches and praying friends,

Julie is a US citizen

On December 5th, Julie attended her naturalization ceremony in Nashville, was sworn in as an American citizen and then was handed her certificate of naturalization. She has officially, as the judge proclaimed, « earned her United States citizenship! » At times during this process, we thought that we would never see this day, but thank the Lord, this monumental obstacle is behind us. After 21 years total of working on her citizenship, the Lord has granted it to Julie. We can now return to Burkina Faso as a fully American family. When it comes to living overseas and being a

missionary, we are thankful for these new rights she has recently acquired :

1. Julie will be able to stay with us whenever we come back to America instead of having to stand in the non-citizen line at border control.
2. She will be allowed a long-term burkinabé visa instead of a short term visa.
3. She will not have to return to the USA every year to apply for a re-entry permit and fear losing her residency status. Also, she will never have to re-apply for a residency card.
4. In case of an emergency, she will be able to take an evacuation flight with us without any problems.
5. She has all the same rights and benefits and freedoms of being an American as the rest of the family does!

Julie's passport is in

The next step after naturalization was the application for Julie's US passport. We were warned that, even expedited, this could take longer than usual because of overall delays. Thankfully, her passport was processed and we received it after only 3 weeks! This is record time, even for an expedited process. The next step will be to apply for her Burkinabé visa and to renew the children's visas. We will also update her name on her social security card and look at booking plane tickets to head back to Burkina Faso. What an exciting time for our family!

Adama was sent to the front

I mentioned in a previous letter how Adama had volunteered to be recruited in the army to help fight terrorism and restore security in Burkina. It appears that the new military president is making some interesting changes to prioritize the security issues in the country. Adama completed a military training and has been sent to one of the « red zones » in the country. Please help us pray for Adama's safety, that he would be a good testimony among his fellow soldiers and that the military leaders would be wise in their decisions to anticipate and counter terrorist activity.

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

Looking unto Jesus,

Stephen & Julie Knickerbocker

“And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they are most rebellious.” - Ezekiel 2:7



Prayer Requests

- Our transition back to Burkina as a family (**in March 2023**)
- President Traoré
- The fight against terrorism
- Training Omar for the ministry
- Spiritual growth of Alain, Alassane, Michel, and Adama
- Adama has been sent to the frontlines**
- Training of the faithful men of the church
- Spiritual and physical growth of the church
- A stable job for Vincent, and Adama
- Adama's mother's health
- The Bible study of Saaba

Praise Report

- Julie is a US citizen!
- Korben turned 2 yrs old
- Had a wonderful Christmas time with Julie's family
- Had a wonderful new year time with my family
- Julie's passport came back earlier than expected
- The church folks in Burkina had a good holiday season together

Contact Information

knickinburkina@gmail.com
knickinburkinafaso.com

Field Address:

Stephen Knickerbocker
10 BP 13671 Ouagadougou 10
Burkina Faso
Field Phone Number:
(226) 57-82-12-28

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
Korben 12/7
Anniversary 8/7