

# The **KNICKERBOCKER** family

church planting in Burkina Faso

## March 2023

Dear Pastors, supporting churches and praying friends,

### Alina's baptism

Last summer, both Alina and Kezia made a profession of faith in Christ and when they expressed their desire to be baptized, we helped them understand its purpose. Before they were to be baptized, Julie and I wanted them to articulate their faith in Christ to others and explain why they want to follow the Lord in baptism. This took a while, but we are thrilled to report that Alina was baptized on March 12th. Kezia was excited about being baptized until she got close to the water and decided to wait to be baptized later when we would be back in Burkina. We want to extend a big thank you to pastor Mike Norris and Franklin Road Baptist Church for their ministry to our family during our time back in the States. It was wonderful to be near Julie's family and to have a good church for our family to attend while we awaited Julie's paperwork and I made trip back and forth to Burkina Faso. We also want to thank our pastor, Clarence Sexton, for allowing us to have this liberty while we traversed this transition in our lives. Praise the Lord!



### Returning to Burkina

As hard as it was to once again, uproot our family from the USA and leave family, friends, and the American routine; it was even more exciting to finally get back to the ministry that the Lord has called us to do together. We are so thankful to have had the presence of my parents, Julie's parents, and friends at the airport to pray with us and see us off. The Lord has blessed us beyond measure!

When we got back to Burkina, many missionary friends worked together to clean the house before our arrival and fill the refrigerator and pantry with essentials. Many friends from church were so glad we had made it back as a family, they came to greet us at the house before we could all make it back to church on our first Sunday in Burkina. How bright were the faces and smiles of our dear brothers and sisters in Christ who have been faithfully waiting and praying for our return as a family! It was special to see the kids of the church seeing our kids and, after an adjustment period, playing together. Even though there are challenges to living in this part of the world, we can say, "it is good to be back!"

### Setting up the house

One of the joys of being back in Burkina is the opportunity for Julie to setup the house we are renting as she sees fit. Little by little, our house in Burkina is feeling more and more like a home. It is encouraging to see the kids playing together and running around in the large spaces that we have here. Our first few weeks back were consumed by renovations, closing in a laundry room, making a church office on our rental property, painting, organizing, cleaning, getting furniture made and fixing some plumbing and electrical issues. Now that the house is in order, we feel as though we never left, yet got an upgrade since our current rental is more spacious than the one we had before (although not much different in price,) praise the Lord!

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

*Stephen & Julie Knickerbocker*

*"And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." - Revelation 1:6*

### Prayer Requests

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

### Praise Report

- Alina's baptism
- A new supporting church
- A smooth return to Burkina without any complications
- Renewing fellowship with the folks of our church
- Although we're in the hottest season of the year in Burkina, the kids are not complaining

### 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