The KNICKERBOCKER family

church planting in Burkina Faso

February 2026

Dear Pastors, supporting churches and praying friends,

Four first-time couples

Strengthening families is a high priority. We praise the Lord for the bi-annual couple's banquet when we highlight the harmony that each family ought to have with God and with each other. It was thrilling to have four first-time couples attend this special evening: William and Esther LIDO (the newest married couple), the POUNMOGO couple (Who recently completed marriage counseling and discipleship), The ROUAMBA couple, and the NANA couple (who was the biggest surprise of all!) Mr. NANA and his wife, Rasmata were both muslims when they married. Since their mariage union, Rasmata has trusted Christ as her savior and has been zealous about turning away from Islam and fully embracing her Christian faith. Her husband has been in opposition to her new spiritual direction, but she has stood firmly while trying to honor him at the same time. When she heard about the new church plant in Tabtenga, she eagerly began attending the meetings. Since her integration into the Bible Baptist Church of Tabtenga, she has asked us to pray for her muslim husband. We've made it a matter of prayer to intercede for his salvation. As the couple's banquet was getting closer, I encouraged Rasmata to invite her husband to the banquet. With time, and to her surprise, he accepted. Not only was Mr. NANA able and willing to come, he even seemed to enjoy himself as we ate, fellowshipped, taught the Bible and led an activity to cultivate harmony and communication within each couple. Praise the Lord for this answer to prayer. Please pray for the salvation of Mr. NANA.

Discipleship with Mr. Rouamba

Mr. Jonas ROUAMBA was invited to church by his neighbor, one of the faithful members of the church in Boulmiougou. With time, we found out that he had served as a pastor in the past, but had never had God's calling upon his life to pastor. This eventually led him to distance himself from church activities altogether. When we met, he had not been attending any church. With his backgrounds rooted in the Assembly of God church teachings, I proposed that we do Bible studies together. He gladly accepted and since I've started coming to his home for discipleship, he's asked his family to sit and listen to the teaching of the word of God as well. He is learning eagerly, has started attending the Sunday church meetings and has also joined the School of the Bible this semester.

11 days with family

The time finally came for me to come and visit Julie and the kids in the US! We've been appart since January 15th because of the visa renewal ban on Americans. I arrived on February 19th and it was a joy to be greeted at the airport by my wife and children who hugged me and would not let go for a while. What a sweet reunion it was. Since my stay was going to go by quickly, we made a point of spending as much time together as possible. Please pray for Julie and the kids as it will not be easy to let daddy go again for another 7 weeks. We do not have a resolution to the visa situation at the moment, but with patience and faith, we know that God will make his plan manifest.

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

Stephen & Julie Knickerbocker

"That I gave my brother Hanani… charge over Jerusalem: for he was a faithful man, and feared God above many." - Nehemiah 7:2

Prayer Requests

-President Traoré and the fight against terrorism
-Pastoral training of David, Jean, Germain, William & Emmanuel
-Spiritual growth of Paterne, Anassa and Amed
-Spiritual and physical growth of the churches
-More members involved in outreach
-Kids' club ministries
-Evening School of the Bible
-Improved diplomacy between the US and Burkina
-Trips back and forth from America to Burkina
-Junior Camp fund raiser : $1,550 donated of the $4,000

Praise Report

-A wonderful couple's banquet
-Mr. NANA came to the banquet
-Extra funds received for traveling expenses
-Bible study with Mr. ROUAMBA
-Spending 11 days with family before returning to Burkina
-Julie and the kids are doing well and we are spending a great time together

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