

# The KNICKERBOCKER family

## church planting in Burkina Faso

### August 2026

Dear Pastors, supporting churches and praying friends,

### Transition to Powell

I headed back to the USA for three weeks on July 26th to be with my precious wife and children. Although it is tough to be apart for extended amounts of time, the reunions are so very sweet. Julie and I made the decision, based on the unpredictable situation in Burkina Faso, to have her and the kids transition from living with her parents to living near our home church in Powell, TN. We have enrolled the children at Temple Academy for now, praying that this will allow them the stability they currently need. We are thankful that although there are many unknowns to ministry in Burkina at the moment, this is allowing Julie and the kids to be in a stable and unchanging environment for the first time since January. It has been nice to reconnect with our home church and renew fellowship with old friends. Please pray specifically for Alina and Kezia as they are transitioning from homeschooling to a full time classroom schedule and environment.

### Progress in Tabtenga

We are thankful for the progress in both churches, but the church in Tabtenga has seen some particularly encouraging advancements in the last few months. Our missionary friends in Burkina held the yearly teen camp in late August and 18 teens from the church in Tabtenga were able to attend. Several of them had encouraging testimonies to share afterwards of decisions they made during the camp. It has also been encouraging to see some new ladies coming faithfully to church and to see the children continually excited about the kids club. We began a new soul winning effort in the Tabtenga community on Monday evenings and we are anticipating the Holy Spirit to help us take that church to the next level. Germain, who is being trained for the ministry at Tabtenga, has proven to be trustworthy, sincere and spiritual. Rasmata, another faithful member of the church, has been a special blessing with her sweet spirit and her initiative to help in any way she can. Her love for the Bible has been exemplary and encouraging. Thank you for your prayers for the Bible Baptist Church of Tabtenga.

### First Ordination Service

The day finally came! We were privileged to conduct an ordination service for David Nassa. After years of faithfulness in ministry and completing Bible courses, David was examined by the men of the church and by an ordination council on his testimony and confession of faith. Everyone unanimously and joyfully agreed that David should be ordained to the Gospel ministry. It was thrilling to have a good number of his catholic family members present for this special ceremony, expressing their support for David. We were also honored to have the presence of the deputy mayor, who was David's professor years ago when he was completing his studies to become a public school teacher. David and his wife, Penedewende, with their daughter, Esther, have been a great blessing to the church. We are excited to see how the Lord will continue to use them to further His kingdom. Please pray for the Nassa family as they officially begin their pastoral ministry. David will be helping me lead the first church and will be taking on a much bigger role. This will allow me to concentrate more on the 2nd church plant.

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

*Stephen & Julie Knickerbocker*

*"And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him." - 1 Samuel 13:10*



### Prayer Requests

- BBC of Boulmiougou
- BBC of Tabtenga
- Bible study @ Pitmoaga
- Pastoral training of Jean, Germain & William
- Spiritual growth of Paterne, Anassa and Amed
- More members involved in outreach
- Kids' club ministries
- Visas for US citizens
- Wisdom in making a decision about the ministry
- Scheduling meetings for our 2027 furlough
- Renewing paperwork for the church
- School of the Bible

### Praise Report

- A wonderful time w/ family
- 16th wedding anniversary
- Alina's 10th birth day
- Opportunity to preach at our home church, teach Sunday School and report
- The children are having a great time at Temple Academy
- 18 teens from Tabtenga were able to go to camp
- First national pastor ordained
- New weekly outreach efforts started at Tabtenga
- Furlough is 48% scheduled

### Contact Information

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### Sending Church

Temple Baptist Church  
Pastor Derrick Morlan  
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

