

The **KNICKERBOCKER** family

church planting in Burkina Faso

May 2023

Dear Pastors, supporting churches and praying friends,

Mother's day

The celebration of mother's day was a wonderful opportunity to highlight the important role that mothers play in the family. It was encouraging to have a good number of mothers present for this big day. This month, we were able to complete the nursery so that it could open for use. The room has been tilled and furnished, and is operational for mothers who have newborns or young children under 3 years of age. The nursery is also equipped with a speaker which allows mothers to privately care for their young ones while following what goes on in the church auditorium. This upgrade was done in conjunction with the sound system that was added to the outside of the church auditorium. The outdoor speakers are for the welcome teams to be able to follow the service as they keep an eye on the vehicles and invite those walking by to join us.



Baptism of Bayon

The ministry in Saaba is moving forward as Adama keeps sharing his faith and inviting people to the Bible study in his home. Recently, a young man named Bayon made a profession of faith in Christ. After testifying before the church, he was baptized by Adama. Bayon loves to read the Bible and is eager to ask questions to understand what he reads. The Bible study in Saaba is doing well and I have started discipling the believers who meet together in preparation for the future church plant in Saaba.



An agent of the devil

As we were evangelizing with our gospel tent near the church, a man who didn't like what we were doing came to tell us we had no right to evangelize near a public road and that our faith should be kept inside the church building. He made a phone call, left, then a few minutes later 7 armed policemen confiscated our tent. We asked if we were doing anything against the law, to which they replied "We cannot answer, we are just following orders to confiscate your equipment. Come to the police station to talk to the chief to retrieve your equipment." While speaking with the police chief about the situation, he made us aware that we needed to have an authorization from the mayor's office to have a tent set up. While we were conversing, several police officers came in to salute the chief. Those officers happened to be bi-vocational pastors and they echoed the fact that we needed authorization for what we were doing. One of those pastors went back to his car, and before leaving, he said the Lord convicted him about what he was doing to help a fellow pastor. He quickly came back into the station, went behind the counter, took away any fines the church was charged, greeted the chief again and went on his way. We recuperated our equipment without paying anything. There is freedom of religion in Burkina Faso, but that does not stop the devil from sending one of his agents to intimidate us. Praise God that He also has His agents. Until the mayor's office grants us permission to resume our evangelistic efforts through the Gospel tent, we are concentrating on our regular door to door ministry.

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

Stephen & Julie Knickerbocker

*"It is good for me that I have been afflicted;
that I might learn thy statutes." - Psalm 119:71*

Prayer Requests

- President Traoré
- The fight against terrorism
- Training David and Bienvenu for the ministry
- Spiritual growth of Alain, Alassane, Michel, and Adama
- Blaise is 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
- More members involved in outreach

Praise Report

- 3 people completed the new member class
- Kezia turned 5 years old
- A wonderful Mother's day
- Bayon got baptized
- The nursery is completed
- The sound system was upgraded
- The discipling of the believers in Saaba has started for the start of a new church plant

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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