

# The **KNICKERBOCKER** family

## church planting in Burkina Faso

**June 2025**

Dear Pastors, supporting churches and praying friends,

### Baptism of Paterne

Brother Paterne Pougogo has been coming to church fairly regularly but struggles with timidity. We praise the Lord that he was able to muster enough courage, with God's help, to share his salvation testimony before the church. He was baptized the following Sunday. He told me at the end of the service that sharing his testimony in front of the church, once he begun, was easier than he thought it would be. That is so true! It is the same for each of us as we by faith attempt to serve the Lord. Please continue to pray for Paterne as he keeps growing in his faith.



### VBS at Boulmiougou

This year's VBS theme was « Building on the right Foundation. » Julie had a big part in organizing the lessons and activities that correlated with this theme. We're thankful for all the church members who worked hard to make sure this VBS went smoothly. We averaged over 70 kids each day, and 52 of those children came all three days and received a special « Kid's Club » t-shirt. Please pray with us that the VBS would reignite excitement with the weekly kid's club ministry and that new kids from the community would be added to the regular group that comes.

### The Gospel at a funeral

At the end of the month we received word that Jean (one of our pastors in training) had lost his father. He died at 84 years of age. The majority of his family is of Catholic faith and is aware of Jean's decision to leave the Catholic church and be trained as a pastor. We're are thankful that although it was awkward to attend a Catholic burial ceremony, the family approved Jean's decision to have me publicly lead a prayer at the end. I took this as an opportunity to make the gathering personal, as I had previously met Jean's father last year and was encouraged by his profession of faith in Christ's redemptive work at Calvary. Jean's father believed that good works could not wash away sin. I shared this testimony with the crowd that had gathered around the tomb and exposed Scripture references about salvation through faith in Christ alone, and the reality of the resurrection and eternal life in Christ. I did not expect to have a speaking opportunity, but when the catholique procession had ended and we were greeting the family, Jean insisted that I participate in some way. Praise the Lord for his courage! To my surprise, several family members approached me afterwards and said that they had appreciated what I said and how personal it was. Another family member made us laugh by saying that he wanted me to preach at his funeral as well. We pray that this opportunity to share the Gospel produces fruit for the salvation of the lost.

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

*Stephen & Julie Knickerbocker*

*"Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips." - Job 2:10*



### Prayer Requests

- The completion of the building project at Tabtenga (last phase: solar installation)
- President Traoré
- The fight against terrorism
- Training David, Jean, Germain Souleymane for the ministry
- Spiritual growth of Paterne, and Anassa
- Spiritual and physical growth of the churches
- More members involved in outreach
- Strong couples in the church
- Kids' club ministry and
- Ordination of David
- upcoming VBS Tabtenga
- Upcoming camp weeks
- Special summer classes for the pastors in training on Tuesdays.

### Praise Report

- Baptism of Paterne
- Successful VBS at Boulmiougou
- Opportunity to share the Gospel at a Catholic funeral
- The family is healthy
- Building project almost complete

### Contact Information

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### Sending Church

Temple Baptist Church  
Pastor Derrick Morlan  
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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