

the RISHEL FAMILY

CHURCH PLANTING MISSIONARIES IN BURKINA FASO, WEST AFRICA

August 2024

Dear faithful ministry partner,

We are back in Burkina! After 23 hours in airports and in the air, followed by a six hour bus ride, we made it home to Bobo-Dioulasso. God gave us a really smooth trip and the kids all did great. The pastors and some of our other friends met us at the bus station and welcomed us back warmly. It was such a blessing to be able to see them again! The weeks since getting back have been a whirlwind of getting situated back into life and ministry here, but it has been exciting to see how God has continued to work in the different churches here in Burkina Faso during our furlough!

On our first Sunday back, we went to Grace and Truth Baptist Church, our first church in Bobo. The following Sunday, we visited Victory Baptist Church, the second church in Bobo. Both Sundays were really encouraging, as we saw not only a lot of the faithful people from before we left but also several new faces as well! The pastors have been preaching and teaching faithfully at these churches and their leadership over this past year has helped the churches to continue to advance for Christ! Over these next two months we will be attending these churches in order to help the pastors strengthen the churches in areas where it is needed so that they will continue to grow. Lord willing, in October, we will be going out with Pastor Bationo, who is currently doing a great job as the assistant pastor at Victory Baptist Church, to start a new church here in the city of Bobo! This church will be started in a neighborhood called Pala on one of the pieces of land that we bought for future churches a few years ago. That part of the city is now growing quickly and will be a good location for the church. We will be sharing more information about this new work in the upcoming months, but please pray specifically for us to make contacts in the area and to see people saved. Please pray also for the funds to build a parsonage on the land for Pastor Bationo and his family, as well as a meeting place for the church.

We have also been visiting our churches in the villages. One of my favorite visits so far has been to the church in the village of Noumoundara! This church was actually started during our furlough by Pastor Augustin and his team from the circuit riding preaching ministry; therefore, this was my my first time to be at this church and to see what God is doing there. After we spent about two hours visiting the village and sharing the gospel, we headed back to the spot where they meet for the service. Right now, they are just meeting out in the open, in a central spot where the chief has given us permission to meet. By the time we started, we had about a dozen adults and forty children. Meeting out in the open like this usually isn't a problem, except during the raining seasons (which we are currently it) and unless it decides to rain (which it did this day!). We were about half way through the service, having a really great time in the word of God, when it started to pour rain. One of the nearby neighbors was kind enough to let our entire group of about 50 people crowd into his house. For the next hour, as we waited in our tight space for the rain to stop, we continued to talk about Jesus. It was a precious time and a reminder that praising Christ doesn't require a fancy meeting place but only a heart full of of faith and love for Him!

We are in the process of purchasing the land for the school! We will soon be going to the government office to finalize the paperwork and payment with the owner, making everything official. Lord willing, we will share more details after everything is finalized. Thank you so much for those who have given towards the school and have been praying for it! Thank you also for all of your faithful monthly prayers and support for our family and the work in Burkina Faso! God bless you greatly!



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