

the RISHEL FAMILY

CHURCH PLANTING MISSIONARIES IN BURKINA FASO, WEST AFRICA

September 2024

Dear faithful ministry partner,

God gave us land for the church in the village of Finlandé!!! For those of you who have been following the work that God has been doing in this village, you know what a huge answer to prayer this is. The church was started in 2021 underneath a tree and we have seen many come to Christ, including two of the chiefs' sons who have become leaders in the church. Despite this openness to the Gospel, there has been some serious opposition against the church from some of the village elders who are very involved in the traditional religion. Whenever we would try to get land for the church, they would use their influence with the chiefs to block our attempts. Even when we started renting out an old school building in the village to use for the church, they convinced them to not renew our lease when it ended and we were back underneath the tree.

However, by God's grace, He has allowed us to finally have a home for the church! One of the faithful church members and her husband convinced the chiefs to allow them to give up part of their own land for the church and they accepted. We had a church work day on the land and built a hangar for the church to start using until we can help them put buildings up! It is exciting to see God working and to be reminded that no matter what, our God always win!



The land in Finlandé was not the only one God gave us this past month. We were also able to purchase the land for the Christian school! The property is 5,600 square meters (about an acre and a half) and is really well situated in the city of Bobo, centrally located among the churches that God has already allowed us to establish here, as well as the new one that we will be starting in October. Over the past few weeks, we have been working on the verification process and, on August 14th, we met with the owner at the notary's office to begin the process of the paperwork with the government. This process is estimated to take about a month, after which the land will officially belong to us! While we are not expecting any problems with the paperwork, please pray that everything goes smoothly. Our goal, and prayer, is to start construction on the land at the beginning of October. By God's grace, we are still on track to see the school open for the school year

of 2025! Thanks so much for your prayers for this new ministry and the investments that you have made in helping us to purchase this land! We are excited to see not only how the school will reach many children and their families with the Gospel, but also to see how the school will help to strengthen the churches of Bobo-Dioulasso!

One of the most important things that we have been doing since getting back to Burkina is to spend time not only with the pastors, but also with the members of the different churches. This has allowed us to hear of how God has been working in their lives and also to encourage them to continue to follow after Christ. To help us better connect and hear from the youth of the churches, we held a youth congress and invited some of the leaders among the youth from each church. God really blessed this week with them and it allowed us to help train them and encourage them with their personal walk with the Lord. The youth left with their hearts stirred for the Lord and we are praying that this passion will spread to the other youth of the church.



It has been so good to be back and we are excited to see what God has in store for the months ahead. Thank you all so much for your faithful prayers and support for God's work here in Burkina Faso! God bless!



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