

# — the — RISHEL FAMILY

CHURCH PLANTING MISSIONARIES IN BURKINA FASO, WEST AFRICA

September 2025

Dear faithful ministry partner,

Youth camp is always one of our favorite times of the year! This year, we hosted our youth camp in the city of Banfora, which is well known in Burkina for its waterfalls. We had nearly 60 people attend the camp and God gave us a really special week together. We saw Him work in a special way. While we were there, we had planned an outing to visit the waterfalls. Since we are in the middle of rainy season, we told the youth that we would go, *weather permitting*. When the day of the outing arrived, we were praying that God would hold off the rain. Despite a 70% chance of rain, the day was sunny and beautiful. Everyone was so excited about God answering our prayers and we all piled on to the bus. We got to the waterfalls and, still, it was beautiful out. We began hiking to the waterfalls and, as we got about halfway up the mountain, the rain decided to let loose. And it poured! We kept trudging up the mountain until we finally found a small lookout shelter and all sixty of us crammed into it together. To be honest, I was pretty discouraged. I had planned this outing and now I had dragged everyone out into what turned out to be a downpour. Even though I didn't want to, I put on a happy face and told everyone that we would praise God until the storm passed. Overlooking the waterfall, we read psalms about the power of God seen through creation. We sang "How great though Art" and other songs. Inside that little, crowded shelter, God met with us and we experienced a truly moving time of worship. And then, just as quickly as it came, the rain stopped and the sun came right back out. It was a beautiful reminder that God's plans are always better than ours can ever be!



The walls for the church building in Kouentou are going up and we praise the Lord for once again providing for the ministry here! We recently held a special work day and the members of the church came out to dig the foundation for the building. Pastor Drabo says that there has been a big outpouring of interest from the people in the village to know more about the church ever since the construction started. He said that a lot of them have told him that they didn't know before if the church was really going to stay in the village permanently (despite us already being there for over two years). Now, with the building, they have confidence that we are going to stay long term and they want to know more about Jesus. When he told me that, I thought of how these buildings are more than just brick, metal, and cement. They are a physical place for a hurt and lost people to come find hope. Thank you so much to all of you that give so much to help advance these different projects for the ministry here!

We took our summer interns on a mission trip to the capital city of Ouagadougou to visit and help some of the churches there. It was a really fun trip and the youth were able to get involved with a lot of different ministry opportunities. We had a special carnival for the children at one of the churches there and over 300 children came out. The young people were TERRIFIED to teach to that many children but they did a great job. It was exciting to see them grow this summer in many different ways. We are looking forward to seeing how God uses them going forward.



Thank you all so much for everything that you do for the ministry and our family. We really appreciate all of your prayers and support. God bless!



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