

The **KNICKERBOCKER** family

church planting in Burkina Faso

April 2026

Dear Pastors, supporting churches and praying friends,

Another Semester Completed

We are praising the Lord for another successful semester of the Evening School of the Bible. Although certain students have not been able to continue their studies, we are thankful for the new ones who registered and have been faithfully attending classes. Several students have expressed their appreciation for the Bible teachings. The attached picture was taken at the end of the semester, with most students present and only a handful of students missing. We are also in contact with several new students who were not able to join us this semester, but who anticipate joining us for the next semester beginning in September.



A Walking Miracle

In the previous update, we mentioned the Bible studies that we're doing with the Rouamba family. What we did not mention was the brother-in-law who was recovering at their home after a catastrophic motorcycle accident that left him with a fractured neck. When I first saw him in early January, his neck was in a cast and he could not move. Even though the surgery was successful, the situation was pitiful. As we came week after week, we took the time to pray for this man named Robert after each Bible study. Time passed and Robert started interacting with us with less difficulty. He expressed his gratitude for our prayers for him. A couple of months later, his neck cast was removed and he began rehabilitation. Because of the immobility of his body for a prolonged period of time, his hands and feet were swollen. The road to recovery was going to be long. A few weeks passed, and one day as I entered the Rouamba property for Bible study, Robert was seated upright with a big grin on his face. What a surprise that was! He was eating well and communicating normally. The following week, he asked the family to help him join the Bible study time. They picked Robert up from his seated position, and with support from family members, he began putting one foot in front of the other all by himself. What a joy it was to see him seated with his whole family, listening to God's word. I couldn't help but think of a way to bring him to church, that we may present him before the members who had been praying for months for God to heal Robert. As soon as I gave the idea, Robert did not hesitate to eagerly agree. The next Sunday was unique in many ways! Robert and his family came to church and everyone rejoiced at what God had done through Robert's life. The family praised the Lord by singing a special song. Robert was so excited to be in a church service that he also came for the Sunday evening Bible study. The following Tuesday, when I visited the whole family, Robert looked at me and said, « Look, Pastor! » I looked in his direction and, in disbelief, saw him walking without the support of a family member. Praise the Lord for this walking miracle! Please keep praying for Robert as he makes a complete recovery.

Back home in Powell, TN

The time came for me to rejoin my family in the USA. After 7 weeks apart, it was a joyous occasion to be together again! Since the visa situation is still blocked for American citizens, we met with our pastor, Derrick Morlan, to inform him of the continuing diplomatic situation and to talk about the different options that we are considering and praying about in case nothing changes soon. This was our first time having an official sit-down with Pastor Morlan since he began pastoring Temple Baptist Church, and we are thankful for his leadership and his counsel in assisting us to do what the Lord has planned for our family in this transitional time. Please pray for us as we prayerfully seek God's guidance as we consider serving as a family in a different West African country. If that is the case, we would be temporarily assisting an established work as we wait to see what happens with the visa situation in Burkina Faso. We trust that it will not get to that, but it would be wise to have backup plans just in case.



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

Stephen & Julie Knickerbocker

“And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God... to seek his God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered.” - 2 Chronicles 31:21

Prayer Requests

- President Traoré and the fight against terrorism
- Pastoral training of David, Jean, Germain, William & Emmanuel
- Spiritual growth of Paterné, Anassa and Amed
- Spiritual and physical growth of the churches
- More members involved in outreach
- Kids' club ministries
- Robert's full recovery**
- Visas for US citizens**
- Wisdom in making a decision about the ministry**
- Junior Camp fund raiser : \$3,450 donated of the \$4,000**

Praise Report

- Another semester concluded at the School of the Bible
- Robert is improving rapidly
- Another donation received for Junior Camp
- Back with family for our yearly family vacation
- Met with our pastor concerning things to come
- Able to report in a couple churches while back in the US

Contact Information

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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