

the RISHEL FAMILY

CHURCH PLANTING MISSIONARIES IN BURKINA FASO, WEST AFRICA

Dear faithful ministry partner,

January 2026

Update on the Situation in Burkina: Many people have reached out to us asking about the political situation in Burkina. We really appreciate your concern and prayers. We want to share an update to keep you all in the loop and also so that you will know how to pray for us. As you may have seen, Burkina Faso has been in the news again. The government has banned visas for Americans in retaliation for the ban the U.S. has imposed on Burkina. Because there are not many Americans here to begin with, and Burkina is not a country where American businesses have invested, this was a very low-risk way for Burkina to make herself look tough on the World stage. It also improved her standing with Russia and China (whom they have been drawing much closer to since the coup d'état in 2022).

Right now, we are not affected by this new law since our visas are still valid. We are praying that if this law is still in affect when the time comes to renews our visas, that God will open the door for us to get a special exemption to stay. The different contacts that God has given us over the years, in conjunction with having the school and the Hope Scholarship ministry, should help with that. We honestly are at peace with however God leads. Meanwhile, we are going to continue to move forward for His glory, "being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work ... will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." While Paul wrote those words to the church in Philippi, we believe with all of our heart that God will continue the work that He has begun here in Burkina Faso.

One of the exciting things that God has done here is to train up a group of men and women who have given themselves completely to the work of Christ. Even if one day we will have to leave Burkina, the churches, and even the school, have national leadership in whom we have complete confidence to continue God's work and we will continue to work with them in whatever avenues possible to advance the ministry here in Burkina. Please pray for Burkina and the political situation here.



This month, God allowed me to go to the village of Sao and preach a conference at the church there, which was started by Pastor Johanny. He comes down to Bobo often with members of the church for the different conferences and activities. One of the young men from the church is enrolled in our Bible Institute. Because the church is about five hours north of us, I don't get to visit there often. This month God gave us an amazing time together. We held a big evangelistic service at the center of the village and hundreds came out for it. We are looking forward to seeing how God will continue to use this church as a much needed light in a dark place.

We also kicked off the new year with several activities in the different churches. By God's grace, we are going to be drilling a well for the church in Finlandé (Redemption Baptist Church) on February 17th! This area really struggles with fresh, clean water and having a source of water at the church will have a huge impact on the village. Please pray that we will be able to find water when we drill and that God will use this to strengthen His church. Within a few months, we would also like to start working on the building for the church. This is the last of our churches that is still meeting in an open-air shed and we are excited to see them have a permanent home. We have inclosed more information about this project with this report.



Thank you all again so much for your faithful prayers and support for the work here in Burkina! God bless!



CONTACT INFORMATION:
✉ jerishel2@gmail.com
☎ (814) 367-3570

SUPPORT ADDRESS:
Vision Baptist Missions
P.O. Box 647
Dawsonville, GA 30534



SENDING CHURCH:
Baptist Temple (Franklin, PA)



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Vision Baptist Missions (Dawsonville, Ga)

