

The KNICKERBOCKER family

church planting in Burkina Faso

July 2026

Dear Pastors, supporting churches and praying friends,

Valentin's graduation

The Lord has allowed us to see an encouraging milestone reached by one of our church members. Years ago, we led Valentin Kantagba to the Lord and baptized him. We've had the joy of watching him grow in his faith and then begin to help teach Sunday school, kid's club and bible studies. We had the opportunity to encourage and take part in helping him further his university education. After 3 years of studies, I was privileged to attend his graduation ceremony. He graduated second in his class with special recognition and is currently doing an internship. We are thankful for his testimony for the Gospel and for his hard work in school and at church. Please help us pray that he would have an offer of employment as a result of his internship. This will allow him to take care of his family and help further advance the ministry.



Junior Camp

What an exciting time we had organizing and leading the Junior Camp! The theme was "remember thy creator in the days of thy youth." We taught lessons from the lives of Joseph, David, and Jesus. I am thankful for the assistance of 6 additional churches who were represented and who brought counselors to help take care of the 100+ kids. I shared the teaching and preaching with Dallas Brown, a fellow church planting missionary, and with Ferdinand Bamogo, a Burkinabé christian from a sister church who leads a local church children's ministry. The kids enjoyed every part of the camp and are eager to participate in the 2027 camp. One of the highlights of the camp was when we gave the children an opportunity to share with their peers a decision they had made. Many mentioned decisions they made concerning their bible reading, praying, being faithful to church, and sharing the Gospel. We even had two boys share their desire to preach the word of God. We also had good responses to salvation invitations with dozens of kids responding. Please pray for the children as they return to their regular lives and as the zeal that they have expressed at the end of camp will be tested. We are already seeing fruit as a result of the life transforming week of Junior Camp and



are eager to share more on the fruit that remains. I have compiled a 13 minute video of the Junior camp which may be viewed on our YouTube ministry channel. Thank you to the ones who prayed and gave for this investment in eternity for these children. We praise the Lord that the camp expenses ended up being a bit less than anticipated. We will be contributing the surplus of funds toward a current camp need: the financing of building a wall around the property. We are thankful for church planting missionary, Keith Shumaker, who owns the camp site and allowed us to use it free of charge.

A tight path forward

While we were in Bible College, we often heard the following quote from Adoniram Judson, "the future is as bright as the promises of God." We believe this saying with all of our heart. Praise God, we are on the winning side! Unfortunately, we are discovering more and more challenges to keep serving in Burkina Faso as a family; but, be that as it may, we serve a God who can make a way when men (even some believers) say that there is no way. There is a path forward which will require us to jump over the following 2 hurdles : 1. Renew the paperwork of the church (which we were informed will take 4 months), and 2. Join an umbrella association approved by the government. We were able to successfully submit the paper work of the church to renew it's legal standing with the government and we are waiting for approval. This first hurdle is no doubt the biggest one. All of this will take time. Please be in special prayer for this. We are also monitoring another way to renew visas which could be promising.

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

Stephen & Julie Knickerbocker

"Jesus wept." - John 11:35

Prayer Requests

- Pastoral training of David, Jean, Germain & William
- Spiritual growth of Paterne, Anassa and Amed
- Spiritual and physical growth of the churches
- More members involved in outreach
- Kids' club ministries
- Visas for US citizens
- Wisdom in making a decision about the ministry
- Bible study @ Pitmoaga
- Scheduling meetings for our 2027 furlough
- Renewing paperwork for the church

Praise Report

- 250th anniversary of the USA
- Valentin's graduation
- Rasmata, a faithful lady @ Tabtenga, began teaching the kids
- Junior Camp was a huge success
- Wonderful testimonies of the children at the end of camp
- Paper work submitted with the government
- Scheduled meetings for furlough
- Back in the USA with family

Contact Information

knickinburkina@gmail.com
knickinburkinafaso.com
(865) 315-7886 (Google Voice)
+226 57 82 12 28 (WhatsApp)

Field Info:

10 BP 13671 Ouagadougou 10
Burkina Faso
(226) 57-82-12-28

Sending Church

Temple Baptist Church
Pastor Derrick Morlan
1700 W. Beaver Creek Dr.
Powell, TN 37849
(865) 938-8182
templebaptistchurch.com

Missions Agency

WWNTBM
P.O. Box 725
Kings Mountain, NC 28086
wwntbm.com

Birthdays

Stephen 9/15
Julie 9/26
Alina 8/12
Kezia 5/26
Korben 12/7
Anniversary 8/7

