

The KNICKERBOCKER family

church planting in Burkina Faso

May 2026

Dear Pastors, supporting churches and praying friends,

Visiting Family

It's been 3 years since we've been able to fully visit with family members in the USA. My brother Sam and his wife, Justine, have welcomed 2 more blessings to their family since we last saw them: a boy named Hudson, and a girl named Vivienne. What a joy it was to finally meet the newest members of the Knickerbocker family! We were also able to spend time with Julie's parents and her side of the family. It was amazing to see how much each cousin has grown the last 3 years. This has reminded us of how short life is and how we need to live it for the glory of God. We also had a great time visiting my parents. One of the difficulties missionaries face is the long periods of separation from family members. We praise the Lord for allowing us to spend this rare and precious time with family. We are also thankful for the opportunities we had to present, report, and preach in several churches this month.



There are many adversaries

As we spent some quality time with family, we were able to keep in touch with the folks in Burkina who are moving forward with the ministry. David is carrying on with the Bible study in Pitmoaga, but not without challenges. Since the beginning of the Bible study, we have seen a number of obstacles opposing the Gospel work in that village. A few weeks ago, one of the men who had made a profession of faith, was involved in a vehicle accident which required him to get a surgical procedure done. Thankfully, he is better now. Although there have been a few cancellation of the Bible study for reasons that are out of our control, we praise the Lord that the Bible study is continuing under the leadership of David. We praise the Lord as well for Germain who is leading the work in the second church plant, and for the faithfulness the folks there. I am eager to get back to Burkina on the 3rd of June to see everyone and to hear of the great things that the Lord has done this last month.



Update on the visa situation

At this point the Burkinabé government is still not issuing visas to US citizens, but we are hopeful that, with time, this complication will be resolved. Meanwhile, we are in contact with certain people who are working to see what could be done in our favor. We recently heard of some positive outcome for others. By faith, we trust the Lord that we'll have some good news to share in that regard for the next update.

2027 furlough

Next year will mark 4 years since our last furlough. We have set aside a 4 month period to report in our supporting churches. We are excited to visit as many of these churches as possible to rejoice in what the Lord has done these last four years and to present our ministry vision for the future. We have already started scheduling meetings. To schedule a meeting with us, please contact me by email at knickinburkina@gmail.com or WhatsApp at (226) 57-82-12-28. You may visit our calendar of availabilities on our website @ knickinburkinafaso.com/calendar.

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

Stephen & Julie Knickerbocker

*"For a great door and effectual is opened unto me,
and there are many adversaries." - 1 Corinthians 16:9*

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
- Bible study @ Pitmoaga
- Junior Camp coming up

Praise Report

- Junior Camp fund raiser completed
- Wonderful time with family
- Presented in a new church
- Paterne and his wife welcomed a new baby
- Korben recovered rapidly from a fall which required 3 stitches
- Scheduled a Mission Conference for next year's furlough
- Perseverance of the folks in Burkina

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