

The Shumakers



Dear Pastor and praying friends,

April-May 2024

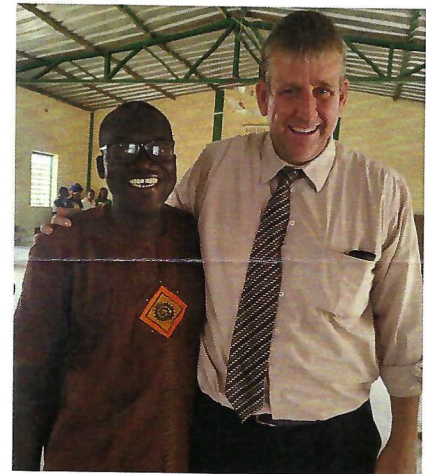
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I was preaching at one of our churches on a Sunday morning when I noticed a new visitor in the congregation. When we conversed after the service, he spoke to me in English instead of the typical French that is spoken here in Burkina Faso. He was from Ghana, West Africa. I asked him his name and he said, "I am Nicodemus." I told him that he had a great name and asked if he knew the story of Nicodemus in the Bible. He did know the story a little. I opened up the Word of God to John 3 and showed him what the new birth is. After about thirty minutes of sharing the Gospel with him, I asked him what he wanted to do. He said that he needed to be born again. He bowed his head and put his faith in Jesus as his only Saviour. What a thrill to see Nicodemus born again!!!



The end of this year will mark twenty years that we have been in Burkina Faso. In May, God allowed the church that I currently pastor to officially kick off a new church plant. (The testimony of the chief getting saved that I gave in my last prayer letter happened in this village.) I was so proud of all the hard work that our church members did. We had multiple nights of special services leading up to this big Sunday. Our men and youth worked hard to set up a big tent, and our ladies prepared a meal in town for us to transport out to the village on Sunday. The chief came out on Sunday. Half-way through my preaching I noticed that he got up and began to walk up to me. He said, "Sorry, I must leave. I see that I have visitors at my house, and I need to go see them." I thanked him for his support and presence at our official kick off. He looked at me and said, "My prayer is that what you gave me, and I accepted a few weeks ago will happen to everyone in the village." This greatly touched me. Before his salvation, he mentioned all the physical needs of the community. After salvation he has mentioned the spiritual needs of the community multiple times. What a difference salvation makes in a life, even in the life of an 80+ year old village chief.

In our last prayer letter, I mentioned the need for an important building on our church property. We are wanting to build a studio where we can make audio and video recordings of messages to spread the Gospel. We would also include an office as I am currently renting a church office on a different property. On the second floor, we hope to provide lodging for some of the young men that I am currently training as well as for pastors who travel into the city for various training conferences and meetings. Would you please pray for this need? We had one church give \$300. That leaves around \$47,700 left to complete this very important building. I believe this building will help us to plant more churches in Burkina Faso and see more testimonies like that of Nicodemus. If you would like to help with the cost of this building, you can make the check out to MWBM marked, Keith Shumaker / Special Work Fund.

Thank you so much for all you do for us and the spread of the gospel in Burkina Faso. We could not have asked for better supporters and prayers warriors than God has given us.

His servants,
Keith, Rebecca, Emily, Meredith,
Isaac and Caleb Shumaker

