

# The Shumakers



Dear Pastor and Praying Friends,

September-October 2024

**Sending Church:**  
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On August 15<sup>th</sup> we were preparing to take a two-and-a-half-month furlough. I went out to BaseCamp because we were having our teen camp. My plans were to stay for a few minutes and get back to prepare for our flight that night. As I was leaving, I stopped the car and took the picture below. I know it just looks like a building, but on the other side of the wall, wonderful things were happening.

On the other side of the wall were 150 teens. By the grace of God, 18 of them were born again that week. Four young ladies surrendered their lives to follow the Lord in full time ministry (most likely being a pastor's wife). At the very moment I took the picture, one of our young men named Valentin was preaching a tremendous message just on the other side of that wall. I stopped for over 5 minutes to listen to him preach with God's power and conviction. He is in his 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Bible college and has grown so much in the past few years.

I felt torn about leaving the country in the middle of the teen camp week. I didn't want to leave, but I needed to. I don't like being limited, but I am. I can't do everything or be everywhere I want, but Rebecca, Caleb, and I needed to leave the country that very night.

I didn't worry about what was happening on the other side of the wall. There were men of God there, many that I have trained, that can run everything without me. There were many counselors from our churches that did a great job. Even though I wanted to be on the other side of the wall at that moment with them, I didn't have to be. I encourage you all, pastors and missionaries, to preach, win souls, baptize and disciple. Then one day your ministry will continue, on the other side of the wall, without you.

While on our short furlough, we were blessed to be part of some tremendous conferences. We were also blessed to see our children. Emily is doing well in her final year at Ambassador Baptist College. Meredith is in her junior year at Tabernacle Baptist College. Isaac is just getting started at Golden State Baptist College. Three of our four children are on the other side of the wall so to speak. God gave us 18 years to prepare our children to be on the other side. Sure, we talk to them and give them counsel, but they are adults making spiritual decisions. We don't get to hold their hands for the rest of their lives. We dropped Isaac off this year. God had already called him to preach. Just before he left Burkina Faso, he preached through the book of Philippians. He taught Sunday school each week to the teens. He was greatly used this whole summer in camps and doing ministry in many parts of the world. As a dad, I couldn't be more thrilled and proud of what God is doing through my children.

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

