

# The Shumakers

Dear Pastor and Praying Friends,

March-April 2023

**Sending Church:**  
Rome Baptist Temple  
P.O. Box 1023  
Rome, GA 30162  
**Pastor: Chris Hanks**  
**Phone: (706) 232-8969**

**Field Address:**  
BP 43 Zagtoui  
Burkina Faso  
**Phone: (706) 534-8965**  
[keith@theharvest.net](mailto:keith@theharvest.net)  
[www.theharvest.net](http://www.theharvest.net)



P.O. Box 519  
Braselton, GA 30517  
(706) 654-2818  
[www.mwbm.org](http://www.mwbm.org)

God continues to do so much here in Burkina Faso that we are only able to give a few highlights. Hopefully, the testimony of Gregoire will bless you as it has blessed me.

The Bible tells us in Proverbs to, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." I have heard that preached many times and almost always referring to parents teaching their kids to have a good foundation in Christ. Of course, that would be correct, but I was reminded of this verse when I heard Gregoire's testimony. The other day I was driving to teach in our Bible College, and a young man named Gregoire was going with me so that he could participate in the classes. On the way, I asked for his testimony.

He said that when he was little and living with his mom here in Ouagadougou, he would go to a kid's club at Bread of Life Baptist Church. Back in 2007, a few of our Bible college students, my wife, and I started this kid's Bible club. In 2009, one of those Bible college students went there to officially start a church. He continued to faithfully hold the kid's club every week. For years, there were around 60 kids present, and Gregoire was one of them.

Prior to this, Gregoire and his mother had, for some reason, left the village and moved to town. At the age of 15, Gregoire's dad called him to come back to the village. Upon arriving back, his dad wanted to teach Gregoire how to follow in his footsteps. He was the village witch doctor. I have heard all over West Africa, if they call you to be the witch doctor then it is your destiny, and you can't reject it. Well, Gregoire did. His dad was furious and tried to force him, but he wouldn't budge. He left the village and traveled back to the capital. Upon arriving, he asked his mom, "Where was that church I used to go to when I was a kid?" He ended up back at church. Soon thereafter he ended up under conviction and got born again. Now, two years after being born again, he has begun Bible college courses. He is extremely faithful to church and to evangelism. I asked him why he rejected his father's wish. He simply said that he knew that his father's footsteps weren't good. Even though he wasn't saved as a child at our church, he had

enough of the Word of God to keep him from going down that path and to bring him back where he got saved later. Praise the Lord, he now is following in Jesus' footsteps. Does teaching your children Biblical principles matter? Yes. Does reaching children in your community with the Gospel often make an eternal difference? Yes. Plant the seed. You never know how and when it will grow.

Thanks for your faithful support and prayers. They are what makes testimonies like this happen.

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

