

The Shumakers

Dear Pastor and Praying Friends,

June-July 2023

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The ministry in Burkina Faso has had many ups and a few downs in the past few months. I haven't talked about it that much, but the country is still having some major problems. The terrorism and the instability of the country has limited many of the things we used to do. Two of our churches have closed because of terrorism, and a third will possibly close in the coming days. All the villagers in these areas have been forced to leave. There are currently millions of refugees in the country, and one report says that over 3 million are suffering from hunger. The BBC has said that the West African Crisis is the greatest current crisis in the world, and Burkina Faso is in the middle of that.



Even though these problems can be very discouraging, God continues to work. As some doors close, we have seen God open new ones. One of those doors that has been opened is with Bro. Julien and his family. God has greatly used Julien in the past. He was trained by a government program to teach people how to read in their tribal tongue. Seven years ago, he was sent to a village to teach them how to read. God used him to be a witness to this village that had no church of any kind. He won many to Christ. This became the start of a new church plant. God used this in his life and called him to preach. He and his wife completed four years of Bible training, and then, they were used to start another church in a village. The work was going great until the terrorists chased all of the villagers out.

God has led him to go to the Ivory Coast to a village near a city called Man. Many members of our Burkina village churches (mostly the ones that are closed) have moved to this village. There is no good church for them to go to; so God has put the burden on the heart of Julien to start one. He has already gone to the chief to ask him for a piece of land and has been given 4 lots. He started a few weeks ago on Sunday morning. This past Sunday morning he wrote me that the couple pictured with him (Julien is in the middle) were born again. Also, nine children placed their faith in Christ. Praise the Lord that despite the tragedy of losing everything, God has placed Julien in a new place and is giving him much fruit.

Thanks for your faithful support and prayers. It is because of them that Julien is saved, and he is being used of God.

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

