

The Shumakers



Dear Pastor and Praying Friends,

November-December 2023

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Near the end of every year many of our churches here in Burkina Faso have their mission's conferences. I have often heard missionaries say that a mission's program can't work on their field of service, but this idea is not Biblical. Acts 1:8 is very clear that we should work in our Jerusalem, but our work doesn't stop there. Each Biblical New Testament Church, no matter where they are in the world, should be involved in missions. The church that I pastor has a big heart to give. Many of the members faithfully give their tithes and offerings. They gave around \$4,000 in tithes and offerings last year, but they also gave over \$2,000 to missions. What a blessing to have a church that has a desire to give!



We were able to have our second "Will You Go" conference on Dec. 11th. Many pastors and churches came together so that we could challenge the young people to go wherever God leads them in His service. We had a blast preaching, praying, playing games, and getting muddy. The theme was, "I have finished my course." We created a

huge board game replica, and we divided everybody into four teams. They thought they were competing against one another, but by the end they realized that all teams would have to work together to achieve the goal. The marker representing the first team's points arrived at the finish line, and the team was given a key to unlock a box. They opened it expecting to find a prize and found another locked box instead. Only the second-place team could earn the key by earning enough points for their marker to advance and complete the board game. The process continued until the fourth-place team earned the key to open the final box. It held enough prizes for every individual on every team, serving as a poignant reminder that we are not competing against one another in our spiritual race. I then preached on the need to finish our course. God has a course for all of us. Some have more to do, some will be slower, but we all have a finish line that we can cross.

Thank you to those who gave special gifts for BaseCamp. We did have \$8,200 more come in to help with the construction. That leaves us with about \$136,800 needed to finish up the construction. I took a little break from building for a few months in order to concentrate on a few other building projects, but we are hoping to get restarted very soon.

Thanks to all those churches and individuals who have given extra during Christmas time. It was a blessing to be able to take much of what was given and help our pastors during this time.

His Servants,

Keith, Rebecca, Emily, Meredith, Isaac & Caleb Shumaker

