

The Shumakers



Dear Pastor and Praying Friends,

January-March 2024

Praise the Lord for the start of another year to serve Him. It is truly exciting to see what God continues to do here in Burkina Faso.

January or February of every year we have a big pastors' conference. This year Pastor Mark Stroud, Adam Borden, Matt Stephens and Robert Jones came in. It is hard to compare from one conference to another, but this was definitely one of the best. Bro. Stroud preached on being closer to Jesus, going higher with Jesus, and going further for Jesus. Every preaching was used of God. Seven young men committed their lives to preaching the Gospel message. I am thrilled that He is still calling young men to preach the Gospel.

One recent Saturday morning for our visitation program I felt lead to go with our church members to the village of Koumlela where we are starting a new church plant. A good number of church members participated. One of the main reasons that I wanted to go was because the Chief had been on my heart for weeks. I have given the Gospel to him on three other occasions. He always listened well and thanked me but didn't seem to understand.

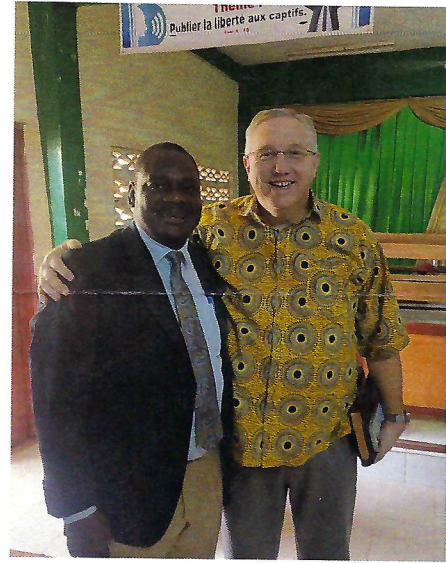
On this particular day, we talked with him for around an hour. He was greatly touched when I shared where John the Baptist said that Jesus was the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. Near the end of our conversation, he said, "I want to thank you for your counsel." He got up and slowly (He is in his mid 80's) went into his house. He came out with a sack and left his courtyard. A few minutes later, he came back with a bag full of peanuts. He said that he didn't have much to offer, but that this was all he could give. I told him that I didn't expect him to give me anything. He said that since we gave him the Good News, he wanted to give something in return. I told him that all I wanted was for him to believe in Jesus so we could be in Heaven together. He told me that is why he gave the peanuts because he wanted to show that he believed. After a few more moments of conversation, he bowed his head and trusted Jesus as His Savior. After praying, he had the biggest smile on his face. It was priceless!!! Praise the Lord! He is wonderful.

I would like to mention one need that I have put off for a few years. I believe it would help the work advance. We need an additional building at the church I currently pastor. This would include a studio that will be used for video and audio recording of preaching as well as office space. On the second floor, we will have rooms for pastors when they travel into the city and for our young men in training.

Would you please pray for this need and 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. The cost of this building will be around \$50,000.

His servants,

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



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