

The Shumakers

Dear Pastor and praying friends,

November-December 2024

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
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P.O. Box 519
Braselton, GA 30517
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In 2004, God allowed us to start a church in a small village of Divo Nord in the Ivory Coast. Most of the people in that village were Muslims from Burkina Faso. They left their homeland to come south and work the cocoa, coffee, and palm plantations. While witnessing to the Burkinabé people, I fell in love with them. I began to research what independent Baptist group was in Burkina Faso preaching the Gospel. After much research, I found one national missionary and one American missionary who had only recently started their ministries. I took a trip to spy out the land in the fall of 2004, and the rest is history. Burkina Faso was spiritually the neediest West African country at that moment in time. Every bordering country still needed more churches, preachers, and missionaries, but none were in the state of Burkina Faso. God called us to leave the Ivory Coast and head north. We began to get settled in December 2004.

Here we are still twenty years later, blessed to still be serving in Burkina Faso. So much has happened. God has done big things. Many of you reading this have been so faithful to pray for us and support us monthly. I have been reflecting on all the Lord has done in these last twenty years and wanted to highlight some of the ways He has worked here during that time.

- Souls saved – God has allowed us to win souls in many different cities and villages. We have spent many nights sleeping under the stars while trying to reach different villages with the Gospel. I have never kept up with numbers, but there are thousands that have passed from death unto life. The need is still as great as it was when we arrived. Millions still need to hear. There are still thousands of villages that have never heard a clear presentation of the Gospel message.



First Church Plant in January 2005

- Churches planted – Most of the time when God has allowed us to preach the Gospel in a new town or village there are many new believers. We have taken these new believers and taught them the Word of God. As they began to grow in their faith, a new church was formed. Over and over again we have been privileged to see this happen. Seeing a new church start never gets old. In fact, 26 churches have been started by us or the men that I have personally trained during these last 20 years. While we praise the Lord for what He has done, there are hundreds of churches that need to be started.

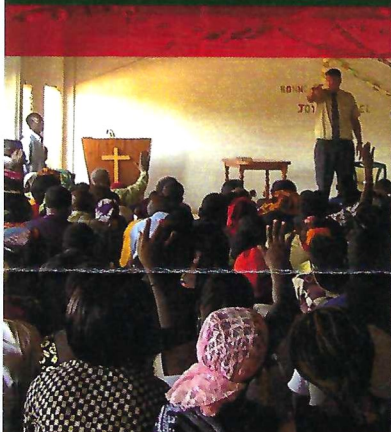


Rebecca has taught and disciplined so many children, young ladies and woman.

- Bible Institute – When souls get saved and churches get started, God starts to call men to preach the Word of God. This is where Bible Institutes are necessary. God has allowed us to start two different training centers. One of them started in 2007 in the capital Ouagadougou. We have seen 25 graduate, and 11 have become pastors. Over 30 people are taking classes this year. Another institute is a few hours north of us in the city of Kaya. They do all their teaching in the tribal tongue called Moore. They have had around 15 people graduate from this college, and nine of them are serving as pastors today.



Our First Graduation in 2012



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Teen Camp held at BaseCamp Burkina!!!

- Pastors' Training – Pastors that trained with us in our first years of ministry in Burkina Faso, as well as younger men coming out of their works, have benefitted from regular conferences, camps, and fellowship opportunities. Continual training has been vital in their lives and ministries.

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. He has used you to make so much possible in these last 20 years. We can't praise Him enough for all He has done, and we know He is not finished. This letter can't even scratch the surface of all He has done, and we invite you to come and see.

- Basecamp Burkina – Many of you have watched and supported, as God allowed, the vision He gave us for Basecamp become a reality. We continue to build and add as resources allow, but already we have been able to host our own camps, retreats, and special meetings for youth, adults, pastors, and more. The property God has blessed us with has enabled us to go "bigger and better" in many areas of ministry.

It is more than just a property but a place where God has transformed lives.



One of the many Vacation Bible Schools we hold each year.

His servants,

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

