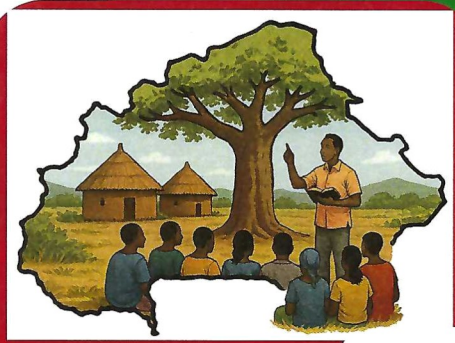

The Shumakers

Missionaries to West Africa

Serving in Burkina Faso

May-July 2026

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Dear Pastor and praying friends,

The months of May and June were busy traveling to churches and being involved in camps and conferences. Bro. James Ruckman, missionary to Ghana, and I held our third school of church planting missions. Many missionary families participated. Our goal is to share the knowledge and experience we have had in church planting. What a blessing to challenge other church planting missionaries to be a success. God is still doing amazing things!

We returned to Burkina Faso at the beginning of July. A week later, we travelled to the Ivory Coast. Pastor Chris Hewett and 10 others, including our son Isaac, joined us in the capital, Abidjan. We immediately started traveling to the Northwest of the country. We arrived after a full day of travel to the village called Tompoudie. This is the village that I have mentioned in past prayer letters where Pastor Juilen started a church about two years ago.

The goal of our trip was to strengthen the church and to help evangelize a few new villages in hopes of starting a new work. We stayed in mud huts and lived in a village for a week. We were bit by bugs (lots of them mosquitoes). Many of us were hit by malaria and stomach issues. It was worth every challenge that we faced.

The Sunday morning service was one that I will never forget. We started around 9am. After the singing and preaching, two men raised their hands for salvation. While they were being dealt with for about 45 minutes, the rest of us sang and testified. The two men came back, and we asked them what they did. They said that they had been born again. We rejoiced, and I felt that we should have another invitation. Six women raised their hands expressing their need to be saved. They went out, and two of our pastors dealt with them for about an hour. During that time, we had one of the sweetest testimony services that you could have. Watching new believers testify for the first time is precious. The six women came back, and we asked them where they would go after they died. They all said Heaven. I asked them why. They all said because of what Jesus did for them. We all rejoiced. Then, we walked about 1km to a water hole, and Bro. Chris and I baptized 10 people. By the time we got back to the church it was probably close to 3pm. This six-hour service was absolutely one of the best services of my life.

Each night the group divided, going to the different villages where there had been no preaching and no church of any kind. In each location we evangelized and preached. What a blessing to be the first one in them to preach the Gospel!

Ghiané was one of these new villages. Thousands live there. We fought opposition on our first night there. Some of the people were being difficult for many different reasons. The second night a good crowd had gathered, and we preached to them. As I was beginning to give the invitation, I saw some of the people in back begin running. I thought, "Oh no! Now what?" A few seconds later, rain began to pour. We took shelter until things calmed down and then walked 5km back to Tampoudi in the mud through the forest. I didn't go back to Ghiané, but a few others did on Saturday night and then on Sunday morning. By God's grace, about 30 gathered under a tree. Two women were born again. Pastor Julien and the members of Tompoudie have been going back each week to Ghiané and preaching. This past week they have begun to clear off land to build a hangar for them to meet in regularly.

I am literally living the dream. I am having the time of my life. Thank you for making it possible.

His Servants,
Keith, Rebecca, Isaac and Caleb Shumaker