

The Shumakers



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Field Director For Africa
Missionaries in Burkina Faso

Dear Pastor and praying friends,

You probably can't hear me shout it from Burkina Faso, so I will write it, "God is good!" After living in Africa for 15 years, I can truly say that God has been good, that He is good, and He will always be good. He has done so much already. He is still working greatly, and I have great confidence that He will continue to work in the future.

I mentioned Pastor Silvain in the last prayer letter. While on Furlough around five years ago I got a call from Vicente Garcia, (Mexican missionary that works with us) and he asked if a member of his church could start the Bible College. I thought, "Praise the Lord." I said "Sure, why not?" Then I asked, "How old is he?" He was 50 at the time and had already been exposed to many wrong doctrines. I usually start with younger men, but based on Bro. Garcia's testimony, we decided to let him join us.

I came back a few months later from furlough and began working with Silvain and training him for the ministry. I found a man that was very humble, and his heart's desire was to serve the Lord and start a church. I asked him how he started coming to one of our churches. He told me that he was a deacon in a church here in Burkina Faso but was greatly troubled by their doctrine and lack of real Bible preaching. He left the church and began to stay at home on Sundays. Bro. Garcia gave a tract to his son Alane and invited him to church. Alane went to church that Sunday and was touched that the whole service was centered around the Word of God. He went home and told his father. Silvain thought Bro. Garcia was probably a Jehovah Witness but decided to check it out because his son was going to go back. Silvain was pleasantly surprised by finding out that the Word of God was being preached at this new church. He told me that he had been looking for over 20 years to find a group of believers that focus on and preach the Word of God.

By God's grace five years have passed since then, and he is ready to start a new work. With the help of his family, he has quite the team to do so. His son Alane is finishing up his first year of Bible College. His daughters, Esther and Grace, already have experience helping in children's ministries. His wife is growing leaps and bounds. They have started Tuesday night service and will soon begin holding Sunday morning services. This is the 16th church plant that we have been involved in since coming to Burkina Faso. God is good.

I just wanted to say thanks to those that have prayed and those that have given for the Go Big Burkina project. We had a number of supporters send in money to help with this project. We just bought our fifth piece of land, and we hope that before you get this we will have bought the sixth. We have also received a few gifts that will allow us to build.

May God richly bless you as you strive to do His will.

His servants,

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

To the right is a picture of Alane teaching the children at Pastor's camp.

