



The Smiths serving in Burkina Faso

September 6, 2016

Dear Pastor and Praying Friends,

For too long we have been waiting to make this announcement: **WE ARE BACK IN BURKINA FASO!!!** Thanks so much to all of you who have been so patient as we have raised the needed additional support and have prayed so much that we might be able to get back to the field. We arrived with 21 trunks, 6 carry on bags, and a large crate with Hunter, our family Rottweiler at 1:30 early Saturday morning. We had a blessed time with a good friend traveling by car from Kansas to New York City to shorten the flight time for the dog. It was really strange to only have a total time in the air of less than 11 hours. Normally the flights and layovers take nearly 24 hours, so it seemed to go very quickly.

We were greeted on the tarmac at Ouagadougou as we descended from the plane by our church's neighbor and good friend Léonce ("lay-awn-se"), who happens to be second in command of the national police at the airport. He even had a gendarme accompany us all the way to the parking lot! Pastor Malique had arranged a delivery van and two cars to shuttle us and all our luggage from the airport to the church. We were overwhelmed by how much God blessed in our arrival and being so warmly greeted back to Burkina. We know that many of you were praying and it was very evident.

We had a sweet time renewing fellowship with our church family on Sunday. We had almost all of our faithful there on Sunday morning and it was wonderful hearing their testimonies of what the Lord has been doing in their lives. Several of the younger kids are becoming young men and women who love the Saviour. Sometimes it is easy to miss seeing how the Lord is working year after year, but upon listening to our people request and whole heartedly sing their favorite songs reminded us that before the Lord sent us here, these sweet hymns of Zion, like "Lead Me to Calvary," "When We All Get to Heaven," and "This is the Day," were completely unknown to them, yet now they have become the most precious songs to their hearts! Both the church and Pastor Malique have experienced much spiritual growth in our absence. We are excited to see the Lord preparing it to be indigenous.



This morning we had a visit from two of the girls (actually they are now young ladies) who received Christ in 2009 at the beginning of the church. Rianatta and Miriam are both from Muslim families, but the sweetness of Jesus is so evident in their lives. They brought a friend with them who we pray will accept the Lord as well. Seeing the difference that the Lord makes in these precious lives makes all the struggle getting to the field and heartache in saying goodbye to our dearest family and friends in the US so worth it!

We are still living in our three room church building until we are able to arrange a house. Often it is necessary to pay up to 6 months in deposit and advance rent to secure a home, making it cost several thousand dollars, so your prayer in this is greatly needed. We are very thankful for those who gave toward our vehicle fund. We still need \$9,000 to purchase a reliable vehicle, so if the Lord would lay it on your heart to help with this need, funds can be designated for this purpose. We praise God for your faithful love, prayer, and financial support for our family and ministry. Thank you for making it possible for us to be where God has called us. May God bless you.

Your Servants in Christ,

Randy Smith
Randy and Tonya Smith

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