



The Smiths serving in Burkina Faso

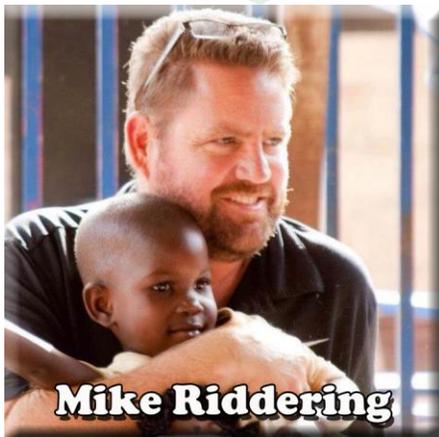
February 16, 2016

Dear Pastor and Praying Friends,

Please be in prayer as I will be flying out Friday morning on a trip to prepare for our return to Burkina Faso. It will be a short and very busy trip from February 19 through the 26th. Your prayer for my safety and success is greatly needed. On January 15, al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) attacked a restaurant and hotel in our city, Ouagadougou, killing 30 people of 18 different nationalities, including seven missionaries, one of which was fellow American Mike Riddering. The restaurant was one that our family frequented regularly. The following morning, this same group kidnapped an elderly Australian medical missionary couple in the north. A week ago this past Sunday, they released the 76 year old wife, but still are holding the 81 year old husband, who is the only surgeon in a region of 2 million people. This couple, Ken and Jocelyn Elliot, have served the Lord in Burkina for 43 years. Please be much in prayer that Ken will be kept unharmed and released. We had been expecting the Islamic extremists to begin trying to destabilize our new government but are very saddened by how violently it has started. Things will be much different when we go back, so I would like to scout it out and determine what precautions we will need to take to protect our family.



Ken and Jocelyn Elliot



Mike Riddering

Please pray that I would be able to find an adequate home for our family in this short time. I will be taking a couple boxes of John and Romans and look forward to teaming up with Pastor Malique and the people of our church to get a copy to those in the vicinity of the terrorist attack. I believe that the Lord can use this tragedy to cause people to think of the brevity of life and the great need to prepare for eternity. Please pray that we would be sensitive to the leading of the Spirit and that we would see souls saved. I pray that this time would be a great encouragement to our church people as we have been delayed in returning due to our need to raise our support level by 40% this furlough.

We are thankful that we have had several new churches take us on already in 2016. We are getting nearer and nearer our goal of returning, if the Lord wills, in April. We are having to get set back up, so will need to get appliances, bedding, a new vehicle, as well as ship a container containing 100,000 John and Romans, ministry resources, and household goods. This can all seem overwhelming, but we are looking forward to seeing what the Lord is going to do. Thank you so much for your faithful prayer and financial support. I am excited to be able to convey your love to my people in Burkina. May God bless you.

Your Servants in Christ,
Randy Smith
Randy and Tonya Smith

E-mail: burkina5@juno.com * Skype: 620-644-4285

Burkina field address: B.P. 9275 * Ouagadougou 06 * Burkina Faso

Sending church: Xenia Baptist Church * 648 Hwy 65 * Bronson, KS 66716 * Pastor Dan Mathew * (620) 939-4740

Serving with: Baptist International Missions, Inc. * P.O. Box 9215 * Chattanooga, TN 37412 * (423) 344-5050 * www.bimi.org