



RCA Global Mission

2020 Year in Review



Jeremy and Susan Beebout - Niger

In our work with CADR, the development branch of our partner church, 2020 was a year of preparation. Our biggest goal was the opening of a new clinic in Dogondoutchi, four hours east of Niamey. Jeremy played a significant role in coordinating the construction efforts. This included making design modifications, hiring laborers, handling finances, and procuring materials. Susan worked to acquire equipment, medication, and consumables and to hire and train staff for the new clinic. Our usual roles continued with additional responsibilities related to the first year of classes at HESP, the new nursing school, which opened in November 2019.

Blessings of 2020

The patient load at Clinique Olivia continues to grow, which means more people are touched tangibly by the love of Christ. Our compound is small, so finding ways to expand physically to accommodate the patient load has been a challenge. We were blessed this year to be able to build a new triage room in front of Clinique Olivia. The new triage room allows patients with contagious illnesses to be identified before they enter the main clinic building. It is large enough to allow one nurse to triage patients and a second nurse to renew patients' medications. This has been helpful as we are regularly seeing more than 100 patients per day. And being able to handle contagious cases has increased our ability to serve patients through the various surges of COVID-19 activity.

It has also been fun and exciting to have the first nursing students from HESP present in the clinic for their internships. They are eager to learn and were a big help during the peak times of malaria illness when the patient load was especially heavy. It is exciting to invest in these students as individuals rather than in an auditorium with 600 students like Susan is normally doing at the medical school. The students are a mixed group of Christians and Muslims. We pray that those who do not know Christ will come to believe in Him during their time at HESP.

Challenges of 2020

As with the whole world, COVID-19 had a tangible impact on our lives and ministry. Our children went to distance learning in March, with all the challenges that come with that. Government curfews resulted in a much lower patient load for a couple of months but the load since the curfew was lifted has



Nurse consulting in new triage room.



Nursing students with a nurse trainer.

more than made up for that. We canceled travels for vacation, family visits, and for continuing medical education. We have had no international visitors since the pandemic started. However, the biggest impact was that the government used COVID-related funding to hire 1,500 health care workers to send to rural areas. The loss of about a quarter of our team to the government hiring left us scrambling to hire people for both Olivia and in preparation for Dogondoutchi. We are very thankful for the ways the Lord has provided for us. We have some great new team members, several of whom will be part of the Dogondoutchi staff. We trust the Lord's ongoing provision. Never has our insufficiency been so clear to us as during this time. It seems the Lord has humbled individuals high and low and entire nations through this pandemic. Finally, several incidences of violence against expatriates have limited our ability to travel outside of Niamey without an armed escort. Security overall has not changed, but the cost of escorts was not in our original budget and has greatly curtailed our active presence at the new clinic site. We are confident that God has everything in control and that having the work in Dogondoutchi in the hands of Nigeriens from the very beginning will be beneficial in the long run.



The lights are on at Dogondoutchi!

Hopes for 2021

- This year, by God's grace, Polyclinique Dutsinceto will open! We are looking forward to achieving this long-dreamed-of goal!
- As we move toward home assignment in June 2021, we are working to help our new administrator take a more active role in managing the many administrative pieces we have been taking care of for years. It is a challenging transition, but a great time to shift responsibilities out of our hands and into the hands of a (better!) qualified Nigerien.
- We are looking forward to seeing family and friends after three years and revisiting many of our churches. We are praying that the pandemic will end and that we will be able to see many of you face-to-face in 2021, not on a computer screen!



Going away party for team members.

How We Can Pray

- Pray for Sahel Academy, the school our children attend. The campus was inundated by a major flood in August, for the second time in eight years. SIM owns the school and will need to evaluate options of flood protection or transitioning to other property (at enormous expense). The loss of the campus has been very discouraging for students and staff. Pray for peace and energy for all.
- Pray for Lydia as she makes decisions about attending university in the U.S. next year. She was four when we arrived in Niger!
- Pray for the Lord's provision of everything needed for opening the new clinic in Dogondoutchi. Pray that the clinic will be an avenue for advancing His Kingdom. Pray particularly for ownership by the regional church and a clear vision for evangelism based out of the clinic.
- Pray for HESP as our team works to open new programs at both bachelor's and master's levels.

Additional Needs

- We need short- and long-term volunteers in the areas of nursing education, English as a second language, physical therapy, construction and maintenance, and as teachers at Sahel.
- Susan will be transitioning to full-time now that Benjamin is in elementary school so additional support will need to be raised.

