



Update from Jeremy and Susan Beebout July 2021

Dear Friends,

“May Allah watch over us until he brings us back together again.” Those were ElHadji’s parting words, spoken with tears in his eyes. Many of our colleagues and patients were tearful as we said goodbye before leaving Niger on June 14. The patients will miss me in the clinic; our colleagues were thinking of the workload that is shifting to their shoulders! Home assignment is a challenge for everyone. As Lydia said, “Grandma and Grandpa are just thinking about picking us up from the airport. We have to take off one of our lives and put on our other one!” This is especially poignant coming from her, as she does not know when she will next put on her Niger life!

Lydia graduated from Sahel Academy on June 10, receiving the Sahel Sun award as this year’s senior who best demonstrates the spirit of the school. She is pictured to the right with her classmates. She plans to attend the University of Northern Iowa in the fall, majoring in elementary education. After vacations with both of our extended families, she is going to attend a Missionary Kid Reentry Seminar through the Narramore Christian Foundation. Pray for her as she, along with 40 other students, receives coaching, counsel, and practical advice to help prepare her for the major transition to life in America.



As for the other three children, Eliza is 15 and will be a junior this coming year, Abigail is 11 and will be in seventh grade, and Benjamin is six and will be in first grade. The three of them will homeschool using the Sahel Academy curriculum for the coming semester with Eliza taking several classes online before returning to Sahel Academy in January 2022.

This last quarter kept us busy with the clinics, the university, and preparing for transition. The Dogon Douchi clinic continues to provide care for 30-40 patients every day. In May and June, four more doctors were trained at Clinique Olivia and were added to the team in Douchi, bringing the number of doctors in the city from two to nine! This is still grossly inadequate for the one million patients in the region but it is a step in the right direction. The full laboratory is up and running and God has provided an ultrasound technician who comes in on Saturdays to do abdominal and obstetrical ultrasounds. On his second Saturday, 32 patients benefitted from ultrasound! There was previously no ultrasound service for 200 miles in the country with the world’s highest birthrate! There is still no x-ray, and one of the projects we are now raising funds for is the construction of a building for x-ray and ultrasound. The budget estimate is \$15,000 for the building.

Clinique Olivia is getting busier as the rains begin and malaria season approaches. We are thankful for the presence of our former Clinic Director, Dr. Yacouba Kakalé, who will assume most of my responsibilities at the clinic during our absence. He is finishing his internal medicine residency through a program in Ivory Coast but he

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can juggle that with working at Olivia and pitching in at Dutsin Ceto as well. Jeremy's responsibilities shifted to our administrative director and several other administrators. It is good to see these tasks being handled by our very capable colleagues and we hope not to take all of them back on when we return to Niger.

The best news is that the EERN leaders are catching the vision for using the clinics to share the Good News! In May, we held long overdue meetings with the board of CADR and the national leadership team (pictured to the right). We were anticipating conversations about funding and about the decisional hierarchy of CADR, which tend to be sticking points between our supervisor and the leadership. Instead, we spent nearly a whole day brainstorming about the ways to use the trust established between the clinics and the communities to share the word of the truth of Jesus Christ, Son of God, who died for them. Please pray that God will inspire these leaders as they plan evangelism efforts in a difficult context!



We are looking forward to seeing many of you in the coming months before our planned return to Niger at the end of the year. Scheduling is handled by Kathy DeKock at kdekock@rca.org; please contact her if you would like to set up a time for us to come share on a Sunday morning. We hope to visit many of you who support us personally as well. Thank you for your faithful support of these ministries!

In Christ,

Susan (for all of the Beebout's)