



Update from Jeremy and Susan Beebout December 2021

Advent greetings and Merry Christmas! Here is a familiar passage to meditate upon during the season of Advent from Philippians 2:6-8. “[Jesus Christ], being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!” The manger and the cross . . . thank you, Jesus, for dying for us and being raised and living in us!

We are on bed number 31 out of 33 for this home “stay” and have put over 16,000 miles on our van. We are so grateful for those who have opened their homes to us. It has been a blessing to reconnect with friends and supporters and to make some new friends along the way! But we are ready to get “home” to Niger. Just don’t ask our daughter Lydia where “home” is right now . . . it is too complicated!

We ended October in Michigan and by mid-November were in New York. We spent three weeks with friends in New Jersey where we spoke at churches and were also able to celebrate Thanksgiving with Jeremy’s twin brother and his family (pictured...but can you tell which one is Jeremy?) They have been in Maryland for about two years after 15 years in the Philippines, so it was a treat to spend time with them. Lydia flew out and joined us during her Thanksgiving vacation. We got back to Iowa on December 7 for some final medical checkups.



We are now in the “prep for departure” phase with packing and weighing suitcases, placing last-minute orders (many by request from friends in Niger), and tying up homeschool odds and ends. We will celebrate Christmas with both our families before we leave. We are thankful for dry roads but would have liked to have seen a little more snow! The kids did manage to build one snowman before the unseasonably warm weather turned everything brown again.

We will return to some challenges in Niger. I learned on December 5 that my colleague at the medical school, Professor Moumouni Hassane, passed away suddenly. For decades he single-handedly taught all the cell biology, embryology, histology, cytogenetics, and population genetics for the medical and pharmacy schools in Niamey and Zinder. He leaves an enormous gap which the administration will struggle to fill. Please pray that this would not affect the students’ ability to complete their program. COVID numbers remain high. There are no documented cases of omicron yet but it will surely come. The harvest was poor in much of the country and famine is looming. On top of that, there has been civil unrest related to the French military presence.

Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at kgilmore@rca.org to be added to the email list. You will receive more timely updates from the missionary you support and help us be good stewards of our resources.

Some good news . . . Jeremy helped the CADR trade our non-functioning Nissan Terrano for the installation of an incinerator for the new clinic (pictured to the right). There is no incinerator even at the district hospital. All the contaminated waste gets buried (at best!) where it can poison the groundwater or be picked through by children. We are thankful that our medical waste can be properly disposed of.

We have some funding in place for part of the second floor of the new clinic and an imaging block at the new clinic. If you are thinking of a year-end gift, there are many ways it could be used including the purchase and installation of x-ray and ultrasound equipment. You can give those gifts here: www.rca.org/beebout to the Dogon Dutchi Clinic Construction line.

And some even better news: we are happy to report that Sahel Academy was able to purchase half of the new property in Niamey and will be moving between Christmas and New Years! The rest of the property will be in a rent-to-own agreement and gifts to “Sahel Academy Project Relocate” are still appreciated! The kids are now looking forward to returning to school, rather than dreading the return to the inadequate buildings which have been used for classrooms for the past year and a half!

We plan to leave the U.S. on December 28 and recognize that receiving COVID-19 testing around Christmas may present some challenges. We appreciate your prayers. When we fly to Niger, Lydia will fly to Denver and then continue to several other destinations in the western U.S. She will be visiting three friends from Niger and my sister and her family in Utah. Pray for peace for her as we separate and protection over her travels.

Again, we want to express our gratefulness for your partnership with us and with the Evangelical Church of the Republic of Niger. May God be glorified by all that He has done and all that He has planned in the New Year. Many blessings to you all.

Merry Christmas,

Susan (and all of the Beebouts)

