



August 2023

Hello Friends,

We appreciate your prayers and concern for Niger! As many of you know, on July 26 the presidential guard staged a coup putting the president of Niger under house arrest. This has led to a whirlwind of responses both within the country and around the world. The coup leaders suspended the constitution and closed land and air borders. Many countries influential in Niger's policies have placed sanctions on Niger in an attempt to force a reversal of the coup. The European Union, France, and the CEDEAO (West African Monetary and Economic Union) have stopped all aid funding and have frozen accounts and transactions within the country. One significant concern is that Niger, which has played a key role along with Western forces in the fight against terrorism, will no longer be able to resist this ongoing battle or will turn to the Russian mercenary group Wagner for assistance. Leaders in our partner church, the EERN, are hopeful that this turbulent time will soon pass, and that is certainly our prayer.

Many foreigners, including many of our fellow missionaries, have left the country on the few flights that were provided to evacuate. We were planning to return to Niger in mid-August but, in light of the current instability and uncertainty about the kids' school (Sahel Academy), we have decided not to return to Niger for the time being. Please pray as we quickly seek to find housing in a school district that will be receptive to the kids... along with many other decisions to make in a short time.

I will also pass on prayers shared by Judge Issaka Moussa, the EERN Secretary for External Partnerships (edited for clarity):

1. Pray that the transition of government in Niger will be as short as possible and that any newly selected leaders would be chosen with wisdom and discernment;
2. Pray that peace and justice would be established and/or restored in many sectors;
3. Pray for deliverance from violence and instability in the land;
4. Pray for our churches to be faithful and prayerful and covered with God's protection;
5. Pray that through this situation many will come to the saving knowledge of Christ.
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Please also pray for our local supervisor Chako and the whole CADR team as they work through what this means for all parts of the ministry. Pray for the necessary reconfiguring to be healthy and to better prepare the structure to bring glory to God and to advance His kingdom in Niger.

Thank you and we will be in touch!
Susan

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.