



**December 2023**

Dear Friends,

“For God alone my soul waits in silence;  
from him comes my salvation.

<sup>2</sup> He alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.” Psalm 62:1-2 (ESV)

Advent is a time of waiting and anticipation as we prepare to remember the incarnation of Jesus, while at the same time looking forward to His return when we will dwell with Him forever! We, too, find ourselves in a season of waiting and are grateful for Christ, our rock, in whom we will not be greatly shaken. As we shared in our last update, following the July 26 coup d'état in Niger, we decided to stay in the U.S. and to take some time to regroup and refocus and wait to see what the Lord has in store. We are now in what can be called a “liminal space,” meaning a time of transition between where you’ve been and where you’re going. It’s a bit like Advent in our lives! We learned about liminal spaces and how to use them well at a workshop we attended in late October. The workshop is called “Abide” and it is offered by Train, International. The purpose of Abide is to help cross-cultural workers debrief and process their field experiences. We gained some great tools and enjoyed getting to know several other couples and individuals who find themselves in similar places. To the right, we are hiking at a beautiful park near the retreat center.

The Lord continues to provide for us in amazing ways. On October 1, we moved into a fully furnished home that we are renting from a family whose business took them to India! It is a wonderful space with lots of room for guests...yes, that’s an invitation! We have been blessed to be able to host our small group from church and several other gatherings. Abby and Ben continue to make the transition to public school well. Abby has enjoyed being part of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (which, at the high school level, includes non-athletes like her) and show choir. Ben loved Lego League and is looking forward to new adventures next semester. They are both involved in youth ministries at church, as well.



We have been attending Lydia’s church and are participating in intensive Bible studies in addition to the small group mentioned above. Jeremy was even able to attend a preaching workshop with one of our pastors and our

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close friend and neighbor. No, he hasn't felt a call to pastoral ministry, but who couldn't benefit from learning how to better handle God's Word? I've been teaching medical French to medical students at the University of Iowa who want to be able to better serve their French-speaking (primarily Congolese) patients. After teaching medical English all these years to French speakers, I'm having to do some mental gymnastics but am enjoying the process ... and learning along the way! It's great to be able to do that remotely from our current location in Cedar Falls.

We have also been able to meet up with friends, supporters, and a few of our churches, whether in person or virtually. We've had some neat opportunities to encourage young people at our church who are feeling a call to missions. And we've been able to provide ongoing support for the ministry in Niger. Let us know if you would like to see us in person or virtually. Jeremy's phone number is 641-318-7409 and our email is [jesubeeb@gmail.com](mailto:jesubeeb@gmail.com).

Just after Christmas, we will return to Niger for a short trip to meet with Chako and the leaders of the EERN. Derrick will join us there for those meetings. Please pray for clarity for us as we continue to seek the Lord's leading in our lives.

Merry Christmas to all and thank you, as always, for your ongoing love and support. May God, who alone is our rock and salvation, be your comfort, joy, and peace in this season of anticipation!

In Christ,  
Susan (for all of the Beebouts)