



**April 2024**

Dear Friends,

It has been 6 years since we last celebrated Easter in the U.S.! We are enjoying the way that tulips and daffodils pushing up out of the earth remind us of our new life in Christ. It has also been great to spend time with our extended families. However, we were not anticipating being able to build a snowman on Palm Sunday. Some things in Iowa, like unpredictable weather, never change!

Our lives, on the other hand, continue to be full of new things. Many of you know that we returned to Niger in late December to say goodbye and clean out our home of 16 years. By God's grace, we somehow sorted through, threw away, sold, and packed all of our belongings in 10 days. Everything we had marked to save has now made it to our rented home in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and we are comforted to have some familiar decorations, tools, and kitchen utensils among other things. The visit was bittersweet, as we feel like our departure came at a time when there is much work to do and new doors are opening. Pray for our church partner, the EERN, as they continue the work to assure proper supervision and organization of the development department and that God would work to advance His kingdom.

It was a blessing to see a new work opening up through the medical school even as I was departing. Our friends Helen and Paul are British emergency medicine physicians who have been working in Niger since 2022. When I went to say goodbye to the dean of the medical school, they tagged along. Much to our surprise, the dean announced the imminent creation of an ER residency program and was THRILLED to discover trained ER docs who were already in the country and ready to help get the program launched. Pray for Helen and Paul as they will have great opportunities to witness to young Muslim doctors as well as patients.

The overall situation in Niger remains uncertain. Land borders with Nigeria, which is where much of the food Nigeriens rely on comes from or transits through, reopened in mid-March. We are hopeful that this will mean lower food prices though they are always elevated during Ramadan, which is occurring March 10-April 9 this year. In a more concerning event, on March 16, the government of Niger terminated its military agreement with the United States with immediate effect. This means that the hundreds of marines who were in the country will be leaving. As Niger's historical development partners leave, it appears that Russia is anxious to step in and expand its footprint in the region. Pray for the junta leaders to desire the best outcomes for the population and not focus on personal gains. Pray for greater openness to the gospel and for the church to boldly proclaim the good news.

*Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at [kgilmore@rca.org](mailto: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.*

We continue to pray about future steps. During this time, we are involved in Bible study and small group at our church. I (Susan) have also been meeting every other week online with a group of missionary health care providers. These groups are organized by the Christian Medical and Dental Association and are called 5-11 groups based on 1 Thessalonians 5:11. We discuss topics like burnout and moral injury and spend time praying for each other. It has been a great encouragement for me.



We have had a few opportunities to share about the work in Niger, including at Hope College where I was invited to speak about medical missions as part of their annual “Go Global” event (see pictures above). The event seeks to expose students to opportunities for international internships and experiences during their studies at Hope. I also taught the healthcare career track at a local Christian school’s career exploration week. I enjoyed getting to know the students and connecting with healthcare professionals and educators. Many of the professionals shared their personal calling, which was helpful for these high school students who are currently reflecting on God’s calling on their lives. The pictures below show a local ultrasound technician doing a demonstration in the classroom.



We are grateful for your ongoing prayers during this time of discernment as well as your faithful support. We are willing to share with churches in the area who would like an in-person update about the work in Niger. You can contact us by email ([jesubeeb@gmail.com](mailto:jesubeeb@gmail.com)) or phone (641)318-7409.

He is Risen!  
Susan (for all of the Beebouts)

*RCA Global Mission does not receive denominational assessments or covenant shares. We depend on the faithful generosity of churches and individuals.*