

ISSUE 5



NOV & DEC 2024

TAKING THE LIGHT

UPDATE ON GOD'S WORK

2024 - Finlande,
Burkina Faso, West Africa



For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying,
I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles,
that thou shouldst be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.
Acts 13:47

www.takingthelight.com

War and Missions

There is no doubt that there is much turmoil around the world today. When we started Taking the Light in 2023, we had a dream to help reach the rural areas in Burkina Faso. But last year, with a coup happening in neighboring countries and the threat of a war in West Africa, things seemed very problematic. Our desire to reach Burkina Faso's remote village was still there, but many things were up in the air. You can read how Burkina Faso's leadership is working on becoming self-reliant and not using the aid of America and Europe. Burkina is seeking to fix the problem with the terrorists that cause so much terror inside their country. While in Burkina last month, I was told that Burkina Faso has declared a war on terror. This has left me with many questions and has created what can be perceived as problems. I don't want Taking the Light and our efforts to hinder any missionaries or our faithful Burkinabae pastors there in Burkina Faso.

During my trip there to Burkina this past month, I wanted to see if we could do what the Lord has led us to do for these villages and be a blessing to Jason Rishel's ministry by means of an evangelistic event and by providing one of our radio transmitters to share gospel and biblical teaching in the peoples' tribal language. December was a good time to go, considering the weather, and a group of men from my church were ready to see what we could do. The flight and journey were long, but we were excited.

When we arrived, I realized that a war was going on in Burkina Faso. People are operating in a war mentality: checkpoints, communication restrictions (cell phone data), military forces visibly traveling around, and even limitations in the capital city on purchasing and using gasoline. I have never been in a war, nor have I been in an area that is facing it. But I was learning that things have definitely become different from the norm with this war. It put a whole new spin on when Jesus told His disciples that they were to be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves. The missionaries I met with are facing these obstacles with bravery and courage that could only come from Heaven above. There is an entire article I could write just on that. But life continues. People are just having to learn how to navigate it.

The missionaries are forced to live a genuinely biblical lifestyle: "Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." They live for today but strive to ensure that the ministry will last and go beyond their presence because tomorrow is not promised. They labor to make a ministry that will continue on and be strengthened without their oversight. You would be proud of the missionaries I spent time with in Burkina Faso. They are doing the work. For Taking the Light, I see our media outreach as necessary now more than ever in helping propagate the gospel and edifying the saints. We need to go through the correct avenues to get government permission, but I can see our efforts being used greatly.

War is horrible and difficult; but even in the horrible, I see God's hand still moving and working. My prayer is that I would be a willing and useful tool in His hand.



Burkina Faso Update

As I mentioned before, this past December, a group of men from my church left to go to Burkina Faso to accomplish what we originally had set out to do last year. The travel took us several days, but when we got to Bobo-Dioulasso, we saw God do some pretty incredible and miraculous stuff. God is working and is using His servants in Burkina Faso greatly.

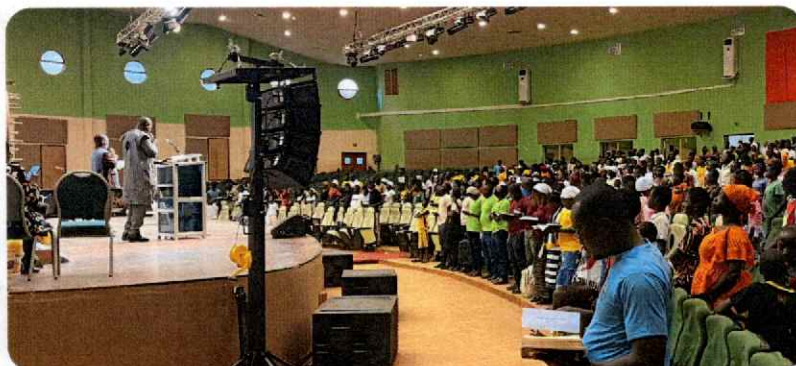
Due to the current situation in Burkina Faso, we had only brought one transmitter with us to deliver to Jason Rishel for use in a village. Once we arrived in the capital of Burkina, an agent had a lot of questions, but thanks to another missionary friend, Dallas Brown, we were able to get it through. We took the transmitter to the village of Finlande and tried it out to make sure we had all the bugs fixed before it was to be installed and used. I can't thank Scott Christian enough for all he has done to make this happen.

When we arrived at Jason's town of Bobo, we were encouraged to hear about the 153 programs recorded since February 2023. That means over 153 gospel messages and discipleship recordings have been made. It is impressive considering that Jason has been out of the country for a year on furlough. That means the studio was operational for that time, creating content under the Burkinabe preachers' oversight. During this trip, Matthew Blackstock and Will Gordon IV were able to relocate the studio and set it up for more permanent use rather than taking up a room in the Rishel's house.

One of the most exciting things I heard was that people had been saved in the church because of the broadcast in Bobo-Dioulasso. There is a story, but I must wait to tell you. It was nothing short of a miracle. Some could call it a big coincidence, but I believe that my God still works.

While in Bobo, we helped provide the funds and some other help to Jason and the churches to organize an evangelistic event. It was an enjoyable night of preaching, special music, and games. We had over 700 people come out for the event and over 90 professions of faith. Please pray for Jason and the pastors as they follow up with those who made professions and help engage them with a local church. We hope this might allow them to see some Bible studies started in parts of Bobo where they don't have churches yet!

I can't wait to go back and see what more we can do as we Take the Light to Burkina Faso.
Thank you for doing your part.





Big November in Peru

Meanwhile, in Peru, South America, we are seeing lives being reached with the Gospel as well. In the month of November, I wanted to see what areas are being reached with our radio broadcast. Well, we had 36 people call in for the month of November which is the most people we have had since we started. I am praising the Lord that there is a group of people who are listening and we are reaching a large number of people with the Gospel. We are continuing to add more content on the radio broadcasting, Spotify, and other online platforms. Luis is doing a wonderful job, and we are collecting contacts and keeping a good log on where people are listening and how we can better serve our listenership.

Of those 36 call-ins, 7 of those people were calling from a mountain town called Chivay, which is over 3 hours away. There are no Bible-preaching churches in this pueblo of 5000 people. I praise the Lord that His Word and His message are now accessible in this town. In another area there is a town of over 100,000 with people calling in. This town is also in need of more Gospel-preaching and Bible-teaching churches. The Gospel goes forth, and we are trying to figure out the best way to go forward. Please be praying as we consult with the missionary, my friend David Gardner, on the best way to see churches started in these rural areas. Thank you for supporting our ministry, and please pray that more funds continue to come in to see the work go forward.



Needed Support

Praise the Lord for the new churches that have partnered with Taking the Light this past month.

*We are now at **49% of our needed support.**
Please pray that the Lord will raise this support.*

Two New Studios for *Taking the Light* (\$18,000.00 for both)

One in Arequipa, Peru and One in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Cameras, Computers, Microphones, Sound Mixers and other Media Equipment

Thank you for your support!

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