

# International Commission

January 8

NEWSLETTER

2012

## Jim and Silvia Nimmons & Family

### *So, You've Never Heard of Burkina Faso?*

I am currently recruiting people to Go to Burkina Faso Africa during the dates of April 11-22 to help with evangelism as part of our project of working with 15 Churches there. I hope that you are seriously praying about going with me. If the dates are not convenient for you I will be going to Brazil from October 17-28, and to Russia in March of 2014. Pray about going and assisting with one of these projects.

If you can't go please pray for the churches and the work that we are doing there. Let me give you some more info to help you in your praying for this current project in Africa. First of all, if you've never heard of Burkina Faso, then you certainly haven't heard of Bobo-Dioulasso which is the city we are primarily working in. It is the second largest city in Burkina Faso, but it is the most important city in terms of Culture, music, language and agriculture.

Even though there are many Muslims in Bobo-Dioulasso their version of Islam is largely a filled with beliefs that are more African/animist then otherwise. Many of the Muslims will perform the pillars of Islam, but they really believe what they were taught in their animist religions. This will include beliefs that when they die their spirit will inhabit the local trees or animals and the need to do things to ward off evil spirits, etc. Becoming Muslim or even Christian will often change nothing about these beliefs which is why clear bible teaching is sooo important.



**Bobo-Dioulasso and its location within Burkina Faso. It wasn't made the Capital because of its location.**

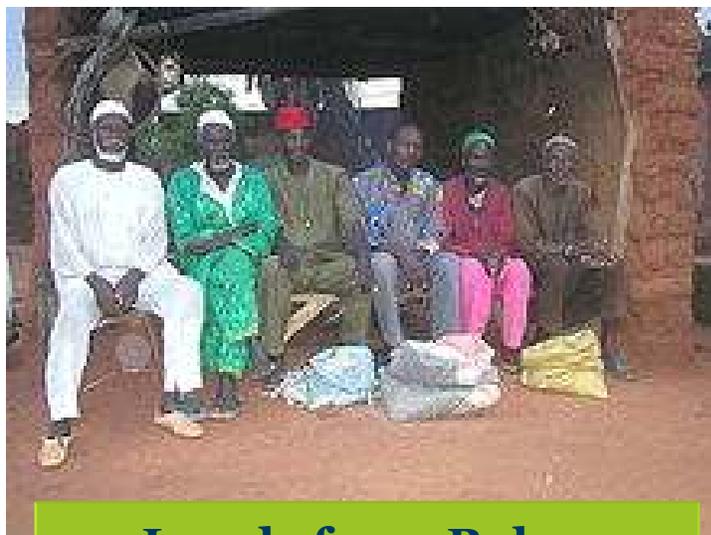
One example of the local beliefs is connected to a pond called "Dafra" on the southern fringes of town. It is the source of the main river flowing through the town. There are large and highly revered catfish in the pond. The people make pilgrimages to the pond and make offerings to the catfish.

Also, there is a great deal of ethnic and language diversity. Bobo-Dioulasso is the name that the French gave to the city, but the local Bobo (a main tribal language) people refer to the city as Sia. Of course there are many differing tribal languages which makes unity and cohesion a challenge. The Lingua Franca (unifying language) of the area is a language called Jula (or Dyula) and this is usually their second language. The more educated will speak French or English as an additional language.

The town is very productive agriculturally and has many exports. The music of the city has historically been the most influential in the country. If we can make great impact here we can impact the entire country. This is a key area for spiritual focus.

There are many roadblocks that the enemy has put up but our God is able to overcome them. In that sense Burkina Faso is not too different from our own country, but with faith and prayer anything is possible. Oh, one more thing is necessary—Action. Let's Fight for God's truth whether here or there.

**Regarding Haiti—** Things continue to progress there. The Gideons International have been helping with bibles for Moi St. Nicolas. After doing their own assessment they are not only sending the 2,000 bibles requested, but are sending about 50,000 Bibles to help the entire region—Praise God. I love the Gideons!



**Locals from Bobo-Dioulasso**

Well, Christmas has come and gone. We have been fighting sickness all through the season just like so many of you. We're now getting back into the swing of school. We did try to spend time together over the holiday to get a better sense of family direction and vision. We have been too disjointed and haven't had a clear goal with everyone on the same page. We will be doing more evangelism as a family and prayerfully can be used to touch more lives. The plan is to use music, drama and personal evangelism on a more regular basis—probably starting with Saturday nights as a regular time. Keep praying for Dayspring's tooth situation. It is still dragging. Another big problem has surfaced which we covet your prayers for. Silvia (my wife) had a lot of nagging pain. The doctor discovered a hernia that needs surgery. The problem is that she has no insurance. We haven't been able to afford it. If you have any ideas we are all ears.

**Upcoming 2013**

**International Projects**

- \* Brazil (Special Youth Project).....Jan 26—Feb 4
- Guatamala (Guatamala City).....Feb 1 — 11
- China 1 .....Possible March Date
- Arabian Penninsula.....Possible March Date
- Serbia (Backi-Petrovac).....March 14-25
- \* Cuba (Special Youth Project).....Possibly April
- \* Burkina Faso (Bobo Dioulasso).....April 11— 22
- \* Gabon (Franceville).....April 18—30



**Prayer Requests & Praises:**

- 1) **Pray for Silvia.** Pray that I will figure out a way for her to get the hernia surgery that she needs.
- 2) **Pray for Dayspring.** Please pray that we can get a tooth removed for Dayspring. Insurance problems have caused a 4 month delay on handling her teeth. It is a huge problem.
- 3) **Pray for Burkina Faso —** Pastors are concerned about a great deal of nominalism among the few Christians that are there. Sound Familiar? Pray, Pray and pray more.
- 4) **Continue to Pray for Haiti -** Praise God that He is providing around **50,000** Bible in Creole from the Gideons International.
- 5) **Pray for our Nation.** May God raise up Godliness again. May we understand and love eternal values once more.

## Soul Food for Strong Hearts

The rest of this newsletter is meant as a help for those who are hungering to grow in their prayer life or just want more of Christ formed in their soul. (Gal. 4:19) My simple goal is to share concepts from God's word which have been helpful to me. May it be a blessing to you!

### The Importance of the Bible and Doctrine

A few years back I wrote a paper out of a concern I have regarding the deplorable condition of the American Church. The paper was titled "A Crisis in Doctrine". I fully believe that many of the most important doctrines of Historic and Biblical Christianity are being progressively set aside and even forgotten by most (if not all) of the church. This is happening in the doctrines of greatest importance. Proper bible teaching and thinking in these areas is cornerstone to right living. Some people think doctrine is boring dry stuff that we write out on a piece of paper to show that we aren't a cult. It is much more. It must be continually looked at and reviewed if we are to be used by God and do His will. The paper I wrote is several pages long and won't fit here but I also made up a short summary of it that I would like to share with you on the following page. If you have questions (I hope so), or even disagreements—please respond.

## Summary of

# A Doctrinal Crisis in the Church

The church is messed up in her doctrines of Sinfulness, Salvation, Faith, and the Doctrine of the local Church (for starters). She has departed from her traditional, biblical teaching on these issues.

## Sinfulness

Today, we say that if you sin one time then you are a sinner. This is only partly true.

The Bible teaches that sin has power. All people are naturally and inherently sinners who sin repeatedly, habitually, and even constantly. The sinner is a **slave** to sin. He needs to be saved from this condition and (of course) its eternal consequences. Our cheapened teaching is a cop out - not giving the complete truth. This causes damage and confusion over other doctrines.

## Salvation

We say to that we get saved to be able to go heaven and get a lot of blessings from being His child. These blessings usually focus on what we want.

The Bible teaches that we are saved from Sin and its power over our lives. Salvation is a process in which God's holy nature grows in us progressively and with increasing brightness. This process has discernable results which are increasingly clear over time. His divine nature is the primary blessing. He will not please our flesh as we grow from glory to glory. This culminates in being forever with Him after our physical bodies are changed to celestial bodies which enter his sinless presence forever.

## Faith

We say that since we believe in Jesus death and resurrection that we have faith. Most faith today is only mental faith and may often have zero relation to a person's actions.

The Bible teaches that true heart faith produces action. We trust Him therefore we obey Him. We follow and live by his example and the principles in His Word which we greatly hunger for – “Trust and Obey”. This faith is a gift from God which grows with its use.



**Is this where the church is headed?**

families of the past which did everything together. They have made a blood oath (covenant) before God to do everything possible to help each other grow in Christ's likeness and holiness. They are sacrificially helping each other to defeat sin for the spiritual benefit of all.

Though many Pastors and Seminarians know accurate doctrine the common Christian does not. We are not communicating. Many (or most) have the wrong concept of these basic doctrines. Doctrine isn't just for leaders. A solid discipleship is commandment for all the believers.

The Bible teaches that the church of the last days will be marked by great **apostasy**. Are we moving there? Are we already there?



**You don't need to be afraid of Doctrine. It is our friend.**

**We have made a Blood Oath Before God to Help each other Grow into Christ's likeness**

## The Local Church

We say that we are members of a church. We go, listen, and hopefully participate. We are considered good church members if we are active, tithing, encouraging and maybe even discipling (wow!)

The bible teaches that the church is an organism which interconnects in such a way that its head (Christ) is manifest (obvious) to the whole world. If the world can't recognize Christ and His power then we aren't really being the church. Its member's parts are more connected and loving than physical