

# International Commission

May 8

NEWSLETTER

2012

## Jim and Silvia Nimmons & Family

### *Winning the War against Islam*

All I can say is WOW! Before we left for Burkina Faso Africa I had read the stats on the area. The country is 60% Muslim. So, I knew that we would have to deal to some degree with Islam. On the trip I was informed that the stats were different for Bobo Dioulasso, which was the city we were going to. Officially, Bobo Dioulasso is stated to be 100% Muslim. Of course, this is impossible. Upon arrival, I asked the people what percent of the people were Muslim. They told me that 98% is more accurate. After our time there I would agree. But... we may have changed that statistic even if only a bit.

We had all kinds of logistical problems at the preparation and beginning stages. We were short on workers (10 Americans for 19 churches), short on money, and had conflicting info about transportation, etc. We believed that these problems were indicating spiritual warfare and that God want to do mighty things. There were numerous flight changes and reroutes for many of our participants, but eventually we all met up in Washington, DC. The flight to Ethiopia (13 hrs) and then to Burkina Faso (6 hrs with a 7 hour delay) were tiring. We then had a 6 hour bus ride and arrived after midnight Sat to our destination. It took much longer than planned and we were exhausted upon arrival.

But upon arrival God began to encourage us. Forty-two volunteers had come to help with the work from neighboring countries and other parts of Burkina Faso. When we went to our opening rally we found out that the churches had prepared quite well.



**Our Team of workers from America (Mostly)**

The Sunday morning service provided us with a lot of helpful information. We visited the church where the local IMB missionaries (International Mission Board) were based out of. They were Shadrack and Melissa Black and family. They were having a **very moving** farewell after 4 years of work in the area. Shadrack let us know about language and cultural issues we would have to deal with. Mostly, he confirmed the predominance of Islam. The black family was going back to live in the states to be replaced by 3 single female missionaries.

When we began our work on Monday morning I wondered what kind of resistance we would run into with so much evidence of Islam all around. Most men were dressing in Muslim clothing and the calls to prayer at the mosques could be heard throughout the previous day. We all went to our respective churches. I arrived at mine about 9:30 AM. The name of the church was "Temple Ebenezer". I spent some time training and workers and reviewing our methodology. We prayed and took off to meet with the first prospect. She was a single mom with 3 kids. They had clearly already been sharing with her, and inviting her to church in the past. When she heard of Jesus payment for her sins she was mesmerized. Islam never offers a payment for sin. She heartily committed to Christ. We saw her at church the next day. We were with her about an hour.

We then went and shared with a women who essentially ran a daycare in her home. After a half hour she said that she was very happy that we had come, and that no one had every told her this good news before. She also received with open arms.

Next, we came to our first complete family. They said that they were a Muslim family, but they wanted to hear what we



**Shadrack and Melissa Black & family—Missionaries to Africa**

**About the Nimmons Family** — Well, the family was able to carry on while I was gone. Sometimes, I think it helps them thrive. They instinctively know how to step things up a notch & try harder. Several things happened which are worthy of note. Josiah & Jedidiah have been getting better at school, piano & soccer when—Bang—Jedidiah broke his left wrist & is in a cast (poor guy). It's hard for him to slow down. He loves being active. Josiah will carry on without him. Dayspring will graduate from high school on May 18 at 1 PM at the Ark Church in Conroe. You are all invited to the ceremony. Also, God has helped us to finally get her major jaw surgery scheduled for May 28. Please pray. This surgery is nothing simple. They will cut though & move her upper jaw forward about half an inch. She'll be on liquids for over a month. She will have swelling several months. She is worried about all the pain. She and Liz are excited about doing evangelistic dramas which will come to a halt after the surgery. Noble is teaching swimming now. He and Caleb are staying busy with school as well. Silvia is too busy worrying about her kiddos to let me talk to her about her health issues. Hopefully, we will get to those soon too. Thanks for all your prayers. We can feel them. KLUJICS !!!

**Upcoming 2013**

**International Projects**

- Brazil (Special Youth Project)..May 28-June 6
- \* Turkey (Istanbul).....May 31-June 9
- \* Ukraine (Lviv).....June 20-July 1
- \* Phillipines.....June 27-July 8
- \* Bazil (Japen).....June 27-July 8
- \* Hungay (13 wk camp project)....June 28-Sept 3
- \* Colombia (Barranquilla).....June 28-July 7
- \* Jamaica .....July 12-22

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**Prayer Requests & Praises:**

- 1) **Praise God for His Wonderous work in Burkina Faso—** and pray especially for the churches to continue to disciple the new believers. The work has just begun.
- 2) **Praise and prayer request for Dayspring.** Praise God for her upcoming highschool graduation. Pray for God's grace as she undergoes this major surgery. We believe it is God's will.
- 3) **Pray for Jedidiah** — May God teach him patience in this trying time of healing his broken bone.
- 4) **Continue to Pray for Brazil**—I am working on a project in Brazil. About 25 Churches are participating. It is in southern parts of Brazil in the State of Parana. Pray as I continue the process of sharing with churches.
- 5) **Pray for our Nation.** May God raise up Godliness again.

**Soul Food for  
Strong Hearts**

This month I would like to share more details about Burkina Faso. This will take the place of the normal article on growth that I often share. I pray that the news of what God is doing will encourage you to believe that God is still at work and that He can even turn things around in America.

**Winning the War Against Islam (Burkina Faso continued)**

had to say. The church had been sharing with their teenage boy who was the prospect who led us to this family. The father was surprisingly open. He had several questions, especially about Jesus being God's Son, but he agreed that the resurrection proved Jesus' claim to deity. The whole family said that they wanted to follow Jesus. They wanted a bible and to come to church.

And so it went. The conversations were long. The Muslim people in this country had many questions because they had never heard anything else, but in the end more then half said yes to Jesus in favor of Islam. It was this idea that they could leave Islam for Christ that was most surprising. We emphasized that they could not be both religions. To come to Jesus they had to reject Islam. They understood and said that they wanted Jesus anyway. Wow!

One thing began to dawn on me as we continued. It became clear that most of them had either never heard much about Jesus or never had their Muslim beliefs challenged. They asked questions because they sincerely wanted answers.

That night we held church outside . The church planned to put up a sheet between 2 trees for a screen and they

showed a movie. They used music to attract the people. Then they showed the movie which showed a Christian rally, and then they preached. At the end 60 people came forward making first time professions of faith. The church members were very excited. So was I.



**Muslim Gentleman  
on Bicycle**

But that was just the beginning. Each day we had greater success. Word was spreading in the area. We divided into 2 teams and as my team went around we were able to share not only with prospects but anyone in the street. Crowds would eventually gather and we could speak with 10 and sometimes up to 50 people. At the week's end this small church recorded 323 first time professions of faith. What impressed me most was the great lengths they went to make sure the people understood the commitment involved in following Jesus.

Of course, I was only at one church. God was at work in the other churches as well. Each night we would get

back to our hotel and exchange stories about all the wonderful things we had seen. There were many stories about long philosophical discussions. Some of the stories included certain Muslim men who would try to shut down the conversations about Jesus—often with mocking questions. In the end though the people in Burkina Faso clearly make independent decisions and a large percent would reject the arguments of the Muslim neighbors in favor of Jesus. Our people were excited about how well the volunteers from other countries and even some of the translators could defend our faith. We were also encouraged by the power of the simple gospel of Christ. In most cases the simple message of a loving Savior willing to leave glory for the sake of dying for

our sins was powerful enough to touch many hearts and lives. In our culture where we may have heard this message many times we often take this for granted, and we don't realize how impacting it can be for people who have never heard this wonderful message before.

Among the stories, one I want to share is about a little eight year old girl. One morning a member of our team named Julius Raines arrived early at his church. A young girl was waiting on him. She said that she had seen him and his team sharing the day before and that she wanted to come and fill out the paper so that she could have Jesus. She said she came from a Muslim family and her father didn't want her to learn about Jesus. She wasn't allowed to "accept" him the previous day. She told of one time that she went to a Christian church and how when she got home her father beat her. Her father also promised to beat her any time she might go back to church. Well, here she was at church this morning. She had been sent to go to the market for something but decided to take a detour. She was determined to come and make her commitment because she wanted to have Jesus. She filled out the paper and then stated that she was going to come to church that evening. She said that she wanted to come to church and that she didn't care if her father would beat her or not.

Well, when we heard that testimony we were more than a little shocked. Our American sensibilities tend to be a bit unsettled by that type of story. We can't handle the idea of someone being beat for the message of Christ. We often feel like it turns the good news into a kind of bad news. But this story also serves to illustrate the difference between a temporal value system and an eternal one. While we don't want anyone to



**Getting ready for  
church outside**

suffer, the reality is that suffering for the cause of Christ has always been a central hallmark of Christianity. It took the willingness of an eight year old who instinctively was willing to pay any price to follow what God was putting in her heart. We would do well to learn from this childlike faith which many of us have so easily left behind. Maybe the nobility of this simple attitude is what is lacking in our over sophisticated faith of the west.

Well, after a good week of working, sharing and encouraging our churches to disciple all these new babes entrusted to their care we finally met for our victory rally on Saturday. All the team members and church reported and the final tally was 3687 first time professions of faith with 117 rededications of lives to Christ.

Who would have thought that in a thoroughly predominate Muslim nation that it would be possible for us to have such fruit. But it truly was as the scripture says. "I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours. Our brothers in Africa had spent months preparing, praying, and cultivating the spiritual field. We simply had the joyful privilege of coming alongside them and seeing the awesome work of God. This old fashioned idea of spiritual preparation works. I believe that it can work anywhere. It will work here in America as well.....if we can only believe enough to put it into action.



**Firstborn child of a deacon  
from "Temple Ebenezer"**

**"...other men  
laboured, and ye are  
entered into their  
labours." John 4:38**