

GLEAMS IN THE DESERT

October 2020

1 Thessalonians 4:13

Dear friends,

We apologize for the lateness and brevity of this month's prayer letter. On Monday, October 12th, we received the shocking news that Kimberly's mother, Kaye Stanley, had passed away at her home in Arkadelphia, AR the day before. We've spent the last week making travel arrangements, getting tested for Covid-19 in order to get on the plane, packing for a seven-month stateside assignment, making arrangements regarding our house and ministry in Niger, and planning for a funeral, all while grieving deeply. We are so grateful for the assistance of our colleagues in Niger and others who have supported us and encouraged us and helped smooth the way in getting us back to the U.S. in a timely manner. We arrived in Arkansas last Friday, had the funeral service on Monday, and then a simple burial service yesterday in Missouri where Kaye's parents are buried.

We had initially planned to begin our stateside assignment in December, staying in Arkansas not far from Kimberly's mom. With her passing we've now made the decision to start our time in the U.S. now and will be living in Virginia, not far from our adult children, Caroline and Caleb, until next May. We appreciate your prayers as we deal with cleaning out Kaye's apartment and make decisions about what to throw away, and what to sell or give away and as we deal with all the legal paperwork in settling her estate.

Thank you for praying for our Send Relief projects last month. Phil was able to complete all three projects before we left. In Niamey and various villages we were able to provide tarps, mosquito nets, sleeping mats, soap, and grain according to need. Although Phil did not travel to the villages because of security restrictions, he did work with our Baptist partners who oversaw the transportation and distribution of the material in coordination with village leaders at each destination. The feedback I've been getting so far has been filled with gratitude, and according to one of our Baptist pastors there have been several professions of faith in a village where he has been sharing the gospel for some time. Continue to pray for these people who are struggling to survive after the flood damage, that their needs will be met and that they will continue to hear the gospel and comprehend the sacrifice that Christ made on their behalf. Pray for believers who are living in or visiting these villages, that they will have new opportunities to share the Good News and help believers grow in their faith. I've posted a few pictures below of the projects being carried out in various places. For more information about Send Relief you can visit their website at sendrelief.org.

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, concerning those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. 1 Thessalonians 4:13



With roads flooded some people transported their supplies by boat.



One of our pastors with two village leaders. The blue packages are bundles of tarps, to the left of the tarps are sleeping mats, behind are sacks of grain.



In the foreground are sacks of millet and mats for sitting/sleeping. Village leaders worked with families to divide up supplies.



These men are holding tarps and mosquito nets, standing in front of 200 pound sacks of millet.