



The Cain Chronicle

NEWS AND NOTES FROM NIGER

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Stateside Assignment

After another four-year term in Niger, we will be spending the next year in the U.S., a time we generally refer to as “stateside assignment.” We plan to leave Niger on July 20th, flying to Virginia for a couple weeks of conferences, and then on to Washington where we’ll be living until next June when we return to Niger. We’ll be living in Maple Valley, Washington, not far from Seattle. A member of Chapel Wood Baptist Church, in Black Diamond, has graciously provided a house for us to stay in.

For us, stateside assignment will consist of numerous speaking engagements at churches and mission conferences, telling others about the Zerma people and our ministry among them, and explaining the function and work of the International Mission Board from whom we get our support. It will also be a time of physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual renewal. We also hope to see many of you over the next year.

A Request From Kimberly

*1 Cor. 3:6— I planted the seed, Apollos watered it,
but God made it grow.*

A missionary friend of mine led a Zerma woman named Halima to Christ. My friend doesn’t speak Zarma and Halima understands only a little French. As my friend shared her burden in trying to disciple Halima, God led me to offer to disciple her in Zarma. Halima is a new believer who is eagerly absorbing God’s word just as the dry earth of Niger soaks up the rain. We recently completed a study using a book called *Who is Jesus*. This book has been translated into Zarma and contains twelve lessons that explain things like “Jesus is Lord,” “Jesus is God,” etc. By the end of the study she was looking up the scripture verses on her own and reading them out loud.

I am privileged to be a part of God’s plan working among the Zerma people. It was encouraging to see God developing Halima’s faith and understanding of who He is during our weeks together. My friend is going to continue studying with her while we are stateside. Please pray the above verse for Halima, that God will grow her into a mature believer who can withstand whatever may come. May her life be a witness to her family and friends who are not believers. May He use her to reach others with the hope that lies within her.

Sharing the Message

I’m often reminded that although we don’t know where a particular person may be in their relationship to God, our faithfulness to bear witness of Him, even in small ways, can influence others to seek or follow Christ as their Savior. Sometimes God brings us into contact with someone who’s ready to make that decision—they just need to know what to do. Such was the case recently with Issa, a young man I met as I was walking around our neighborhood. He and his friend were sitting under a tree on the street corner. As we exchanged greetings I stopped to chat awhile. They wanted to know where I learned to speak Zarma, where I was from, what I was doing here, etc. As I answered their questions, I mentioned that occasionally I like to do short Bible studies with people to show them what the Bible teaches about God. I said I’d be glad to meet with them if they wanted to and they accepted. We set up a time to meet and I went on my way.

When I returned a couple days later, they were waiting for me along with a couple friends and welcomed me into their compound. We sat down together on a mat while one of the guys began brewing tea. I pulled out my Zarma Bible and began to share with them, in story form, the account of creation. As I talked about God’s sovereignty and attributes they listened closely. I talked about fifteen minutes and then we visited over the tea. I made arrangements to come back. As we continued to meet together over the next couple weeks I simply shared the stories from the Bible, demonstrating our need for a Savior and God’s plan to redeem us.

At our fifth meeting together I shared the story of

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Prayer Points

Pray for us as we transition to life in the U.S. and adjust to a much different climate and culture.

Pray for Caroline and Caleb as they attend new schools this next year. This will be a major adjustment for both of them.

Pray for the work in Niger—that the churches will grow strong and the believers will remain firm in the faith.



News from Caroline . . . I really enjoyed the past year at Sahel Academy. I'm looking forward to going to the U.S. soon, but in some ways I'd rather stay here with my friends for 8th grade. I feel like I fit in better here, and since I've lived here most of my life, this is home. Sahel Academy had a little over 70 students last year for K-12th grade. The school I'll be attending for 8th grade has over 1000 students just for 8th and 9th! It has a drama club which I hope to join and lots of interesting electives. I'm also looking forward to seeing my grandparents and relatives again and going to bookstores and restaurants. The cooler weather and green grass will be a nice change too!

. . . and Caleb

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Christ and how he fulfilled all that we had been talking about from our previous sessions. I concluded by challenging them to consider the teachings of the Bible and the claims of Christ and whether or not they were ready to follow Him. I asked if there were any questions. Issa leaned forward and with a half-smile on his face asked, "So, if a person does want to follow Christ, what do they need to do?"

Of course, I was happy to answer that and when I was confident that he understood what must be done, we prayed together. As he asked God to forgive him and invited Jesus to dwell in his heart, my own heart was full of joy to see my friend take this step of faith even while his friends were holding back. Issa was ready—he just needed someone to explain the gospel and tell him how to follow Christ.

Most of the people I talk to tell me they aren't ready to make that decision. Hopefully, the day will come, as it did with Issa, when they are ready. In the meantime, may we all be faithful in sharing the gospel with others—those who are ready need to hear it.

I enjoyed second grade at Sahel Academy this year—I really liked Science, History, English, and I kinda liked Math. I'm going to miss Simon and Sophie (our cat and dog) a lot. I'm going to miss my friends here and the good times we have like swimming at the pool and playing wall-ball and three-goal.

I'm looking forward to seeing Grandma and Grandpa and Nana too. Nana said she's taking me to a baseball game when we get to Washington. I'm also looking forward to going on picnics and camping with a campfire and smores. I'm not sure I'm ready for a new school but I'm looking forward to making new friends there. I think the plane ride home will be fun too.

