



RCA Missionary Update

from the Beebouts

Medical and agricultural development needs are extreme in Niger, one of the poorest countries in the world. Niger has only a rudimentary health system, so disease is widespread, and the country is always teetering on the edge of famine. Jeremy and Susan Beebout will work with the Evangelical Church of the Republic of Niger (EERN) to build ministry programs, enabling Nigerien Christians to share Christ's love with the people of Niger by addressing their health and agricultural needs. Jeremy, an agronomist, will work with agricultural development efforts. Susan, who is a doctor, will help develop the church's health ministries. The couple has three children, Lydia, Eliza, and Abigail.

Niger facts:

- Population: 11,361,000
- Size: 1,266,700 square kilometers (slightly less than twice the size of Texas)
- Major religion: 98 percent Muslim



MINISTRY

Medicine, Agriculture, and Volunteer Coordination

LOCATION

Niger

PARTNER

Evangelical Church of the Republic of Niger

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Dear Friends,

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One of the things we were looking forward to during our first home assignment was experiencing the change of seasons. Niger, of course, has its own version of seasons. There is the dry season (brown) and rainy season (a bit more green), the mango and non-mango seasons, the hot and hotter seasons...but for us who have grown up experiencing and appreciating the rather extreme changes in seasons in the Midwest, there is really no substitute. Returning home at the end of July, we found ourselves in a different kind of season—a season of blessings. I would like to share just a few of the innumerable ways in which we have been blessed. The purpose for doing this is to give thanks to God and give testimony to His faithfulness and the faithfulness and generosity of family and friends. So here we go.

When we arrived back in the U.S., landing in New York City, we first spent a week with Susan's aunt and uncle who live in New Jersey. This gave us time to recover from jetlag, reconnect as a family and rest



This famous lady was one of our first sights after arriving in the U.S.A.!

in a place where we had few other obligations. During that time we did visit several of our supporting churches in the area. One of the blessings of these visits was reuniting with many volunteers who came to Niger to help in the construction of the guesthouse.

After arriving in Iowa, we spent the first month with family. My extended family was all together just after we returned so we were able to do a lot of catching up. Following that we enjoyed seeing much of Susan's family as we celebrated the wedding of Susan's youngest sister, Samantha.

In late August we situated ourselves in our little rental house in Coralville. Friends from our home church, New Life Community Church in Coralville, found, furnished, and even put food in our house so that when we arrived we would be already "settled." We completed this with several van loads of possessions that we had stored at our parents' homes. Our van is another blessing as we needed a vehicle immediately upon our return and my parents were able to find one and have it waiting for us. We were in our own place for just a few days when the newest member of our family, Abigail Esther Beebout arrived! This happened on September 7 (Labor Day!) Abigail is doing very well and Lydia and Eliza have gladly welcomed her in to the family.

We are now visiting with supporting churches and other groups every week-end as well as during the week. This too is a blessing as we get to reconnect with old acquaintances and make new friends at the same time. We have also had the privilege of meeting up with the Hawley's, the RCA project coordinators with whom we worked in Niger, and several other volunteers from Iowa. Finally, God has granted us what we believe are divine appointments at the Universities of Iowa and Minnesota as well as Iowa State. We are hoping to recruit students and professors to come volunteer with us and to support the university in Niger in other ways. We look forward to the blessing of seeing many of you during our church visits and sharing about our activities in Niger and how God is working there.



Our family visiting with two medical students, Erin who has been to Niger, and Lisa who will be coming to Niger next year.

struggle and yet they have an overcoming spirit and are a joyful people that consider themselves blessed as loved children of an Almighty God!

Here are a few ways to be praying—and thank you for your prayers. We're blessed by them!

- Pray for our safety as we travel and the Lord's leading as we share and interact with supporting churches and individuals.

- Pray for good relations and clear communication with our colleagues in Niger while we are here in the U.S.
- Pray for the election process in Niger.
- Pray for the church in Niger to continue to grow and know the blessings of God!

As we travel and interact with people here in the U.S., it is apparent that many here might be challenged to call themselves 'blessed' during this current "season." We have spoken with friends as well as family members who no longer have jobs. Others who are recovering from flooding, tornadoes, terrible hailstorms... and farmers who are facing a challenging harvest season. Of course this is only a small representation of the challenges being faced and I recognize that these are very significant challenges that can easily take our eyes off of the blessings that we have in Christ.

One of the points that we are learning from our Nigerian friends is this: as children of God we are greatly blessed despite the challenging circumstances that we might find ourselves in. Certainly they are familiar with hardship and

We have two new programs that have just been approved by RCA Global Mission and would ask that you consider supporting either or both of them. Donations can be made online on the RCA website, www.rca.org, or by sending checks to the Reformed Church in America at PO Box 19381, Newark, NJ 07195-1938. Please indicate in the memo portion of your check, either "Niger Medical Ministry" or "Niger Rural Development." We will be speaking about these programs during our visits with you.

We pray that you too will 'find' yourself blessed through your standing with God and regardless of the physical circumstances that you are in!

Your friends,

Jeremy and Susan Beebout

To access extensive information about the Beebouts, or to make a financial gift for their ministry, simply go to www.rca.org/beebout.

*Did you know that you can receive Dear Friends letters directly to your own e-mail and that by doing so you are helping RCA Global Mission be a good steward of your gifts?
To sign up, contact Eva Fennema at (800) 968-3943 or efennema@rca.org.*