

Bene Koytara Goyterey

Those who work for God's Kingdom (translated from Zarma)



Dear readers of our Newsletter,

We have come up with a new idea: the annual report shorter and factual; and the report on our projects separate from the annual report, more narrative and with nice pictures, so that it is easier to read. At least, that is what we hope and we are curious whether you feel the same way.

Jeannette relates in this Newsletter what happened within the different projects in 2021. So it's a supplement to the 2021 annual report, which is already on the website. Enjoy the read.

The Gai'tou family and the board of the Niger Zending Foundation.

Caleb Training Centre



In June 2021 the fourth group completed the 3-year course "sewing, knitting and embroidery". Of the 75 course participants, 65 obtained their certificates with a satisfactory or good result. Those who did not pass always get the chance to pass in the next year through study and practical training. Of the graduates 20 participants received a sewing machine and 8 a knitting machine, so they can start their own business.

In October, a new group of 158 girls and women started the 3-year course; 8 of them are also following the DTS training. A number of our sewing machines at the Caleb Training Centre were in urgent need of replacement and thanks to a donation from a church in the Netherlands we were able to replace 10 sewing machines.

Staff: In December, Mrs. Ramatou decided to end her work with us because of another job. She gave sewing lessons with us since 2012. Sunday is still the general manager; Mrs. Eli teaches literacy and works as a pastoral counselor; and Mrs. Alissa teaches knitting and embroidery.

Discipleship Training School (DTS)



Because a large part of the participants have limited education and skills, we have decided to extend the DTS to 3 years. This way they can follow the DTS next to their vocational training. Due to some teething problems, this has only been realized in October 2021 and these are, as mentioned earlier, 8 participants.

King's Kids / Quartier Libre (Free Zone) / youth work



Due to all sorts of setbacks, the activities of Quartier Libre in Niamey didn't really get off the ground. We did have some meetings about the restart and there have been 2 activities on 2 different locations.

In Maradi a lot was organized regarding this activity and the team there worked in the villages Yaran Idi and Baramaka from January to June by alternating the program every other week on Wednesday afternoon. In Yaran Iri about 150 children participated. And in Baramaka there were regularly 300 children.

Due to financial constraints, the car insurance had not been renewed and the team could not immediately continue activities in the fall. By the end of November, we had the funds available to renew the insurance and Quartier Libre was therefore able to restart in December.

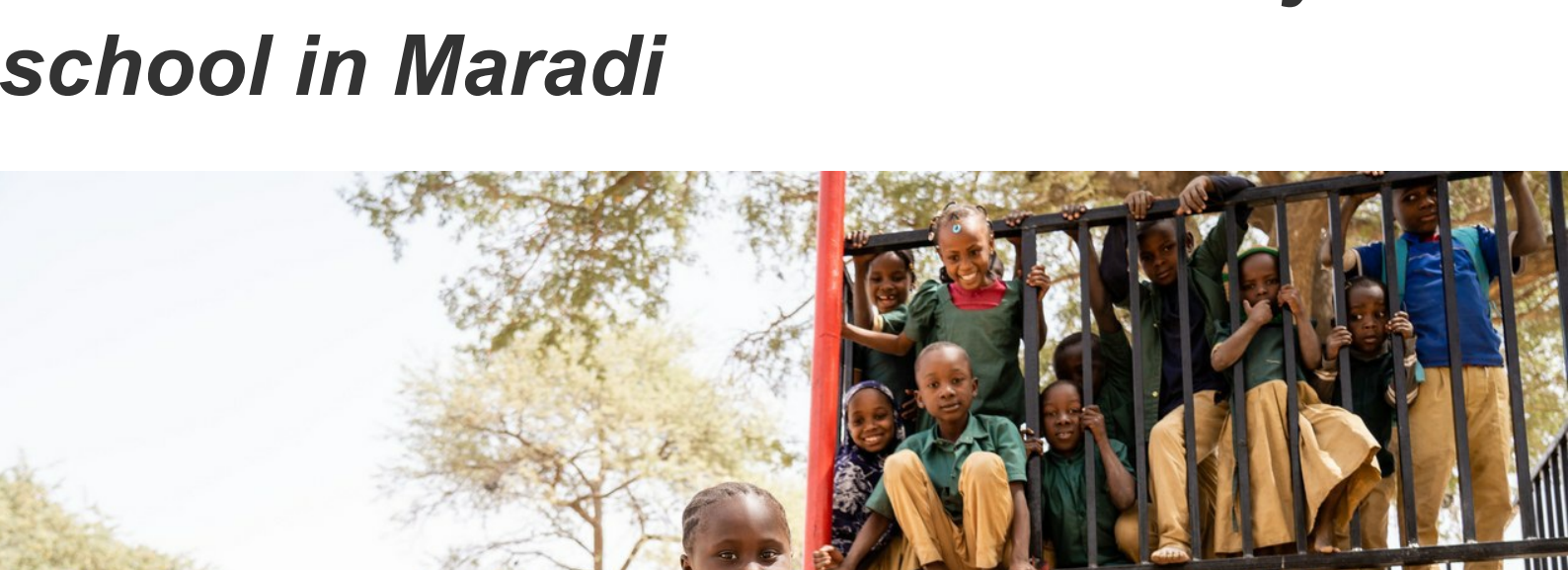
The radio work of Blaise



After our departure from Maradi, Blaise's radio work was at a standstill. But in January 2021, the church congregation in Niamey where we had joined, asked if he would like to host a weekly program on one of the local radio stations. And so at the end of January Blaise started again on the radio.

In November 2021, Blaise was asked to be a speaker for the 4th workshop of FOMECAF (Forum des Medias Chrétiens d'Afrique Francophone) in collaboration with Radio Revief (a Christian radio station from Switzerland). It was held in Cotonou. The theme was "media and the generation gap".

Academie Evangélique Cornerstone de Maradi - the Christian elementary school in Maradi



As usual, the 2020-2021 school year was completed early in June and the new 2021-2022 school year began in October. In terms of administration, there were problems with one of the school leaders and he had to leave the school. For the short term there was a solution that one of the part time teachers could take over.

We had planned to properly prepare for the departure of Judy Evans. This departure was planned for December 2021. Unforeseen matters threw a spanner in the works and we ran out of time. Partly because of this, their departure has been postponed until March 2022, so that we had a little more time for a proper handover.

A good administrative team remains an area of concern and attention. The construction of the foundation and the walls of 3 extra classrooms was possible thanks to available funds, so that eventually the primary and secondary school with 6 classrooms will be located together. Until then the secondary school is still in "borrowed" classrooms a bit further down the road.

And from the money we received a few years ago from a church in the Netherlands for the construction of a playground, swings and a climbing frame have now been realized.

Sowing Seeds of Change in the Sahel



The work done by Sowing Seeds of Change in the Sahel (SSCS) has its progression just as the seasons follow each other in a year. In the beginning of 2021 a training was given through another Christian organization regarding a Village Savings and Loans (VSL) program. This program goes a step further than the provision of microcredit; it is based entirely on people's own efforts and capital. A group of about 25 people starts saving together. Every week everyone puts in an amount (doesn't have to be the same for everyone). When a certain threshold is reached, small loans can be issued for a specific purpose. These loans must then be repaid with a small interest. The big advantage of this system is of course that it revolves around own capital of the people involved. Our farm manager and 2 former employees of SSCS have participated. The 2 former employees have picked it up and implemented it in their own villages.

In one village 1 group is running now and in the other village 5 groups are running. The programme has been developed in such a way that it runs for a year and at the end of the year each participant receives the amount he/she has saved. A group consists of 25 participants and in our case 99% were women. Our farm manager was also planning to start a group, but it didn't happen in 2021.

Health education: this was continued this year in 3 villages, with a total of 4 groups. In one group we decided to finish the education after 6 years of training. Abou who is giving the trainings, has taught them everything and doesn't have anything new to add anymore. With results, because our statistics show that malaria and diarrhoea have decreased by 50% over the last few years.

Besides these groups, health education is also given in the women's prison of Maradi; this happens every 2 weeks.

JEMED (Youth with a Mission) general news



Cooperation with TearFund
• The project in which boys do an internship to learn a trade was continued this year. 6 boys had an internship in a garage to become a car mechanic and 2 boys were learning to be a welder. Unfortunately most of them stopped. They saw that other young people received money for transport and food through other organizations in addition to the free training. JEMED does not offer that extra money and despite explanations and conversations, they did not continue with their training. One of the welders found a job after one year and decided to start work.

• This year we were able to start another group with 21 students for computer lessons. This course was successful.

• Furthermore, a course was organized in Niamey on how to make cloth bags and shoes. 20 women and 2 men followed the course; often they were connected to a local training centre. In this way they could directly pass on the learned techniques. If possible we plan to organize a follow-up course.

• We were planning to continue our activities in Abalak, but due to various circumstances this was not possible during 2021.

JEMED primary school in Cimi
This work is under the direction of another member of the JEMED team in Niamey. This school would like to start a secondary school and we are involved in fundraising.

About the leadership
As director of JEMED in Niger, Blaise is responsible for the well-being of the entire team and for the encouragement of those members who are struggling to move forward in their own activity. It is also necessary to renew the status of JEMED and its relationship with the government. With many thanks to Paul Zagré, who has done a lot of work in this; at the end of 2021 this was not yet completed.

Years ago JEMED started a church plant in one of the neighborhoods of Niamey and also had the possibility to build a church building. A few years ago this stagnated, but now there was the possibility to start it up again together with a Nigerian missionary from a Zimbabwean mission organisation. Blaise guides, advises and supports.

He also supports the YWAM team in Chad; mostly via WhatsApp.

With our love,
Blaise, Jeannette, Caleb and Phoebé

[Donate now](#)

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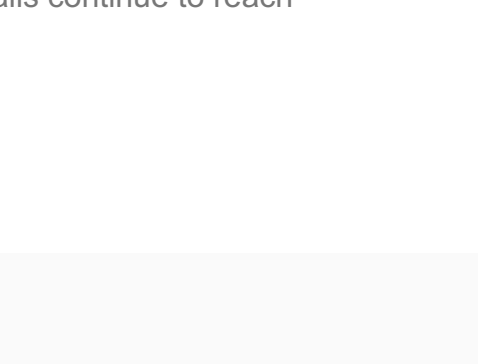
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