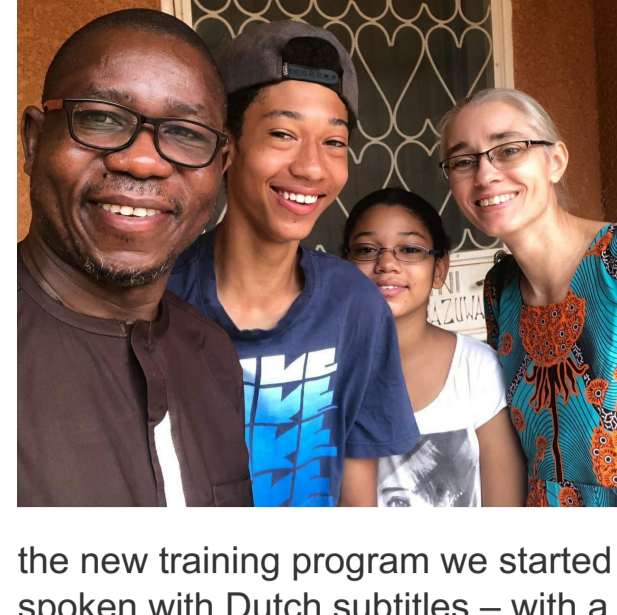


# Bene Koytara Goyterey

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



## Dear Friends



The year 2020 is drawing to a close. On the one hand I want to say: "already!", because January 2020 doesn't seem long ago. Yet, on the other hand it seems that it was a long year in which so much happened and during which so many plans had to be changed. We are thankful that we know that there is One who is Eternally the same and that we can continue to entrust our lives to Him. With that reassurance we will enter 2021 and continue to make plans for our lives and work.

We hope you will enjoy and be encouraged by the two stories in this newsletter about the progress at the AECM school and a reflection related to a car adventure. A television station in Maradi made a short reportage about the new training program we started up recently. You will find a link to this video too (French spoken with Dutch subtitles) – with a special thank you to the volunteers who helped realize the subtitles!).

At the end of this year we want to make use of the occasion to THANK ALL who continue to support us through prayer, through financial gifts, through encouragements, or even in other ways. Your support enables us to continue our work and life here in Niger!

## Another car adventure



"Hello Abou." "Hello Jeannette, how are you?" "I am well, and you?" We exchange a few more greetings and then I start making enquiries about how the week has been. In a general sense things went well, Abou (community health trainer) says, but then she also shares their latest car 'adventure'.

Both she and Ayouba (operations manager) went out to visit and teach in one of the villages we are in contact with. While visiting the fields of our contact S in the village, the car – a big heavy Toyota Land Cruiser – suddenly refused to start. After some trying they decided that the battery was no longer working. Thankfully the village has a water tower and the generator that supplies electricity for the pump functions with a good size car battery. S thus went to ask the person in charge if he would agree to loan them this battery to be able to drive back to Maradi. He agreed and Ayouba and Abou drove back to Maradi with S following them on his motorbike so that he could take the battery back to his village.

My first reaction after Abou had told me the story was "what a hassle" and I felt sorry for the three of them just imagining the time it will have taken and the additional tiredness it would have caused them. But of course I was also very grateful it happened near this village because of the water tower and the generator that goes with it. Had it been near one of the other villages the situation would have caused much more difficulty.

And then I thought that there was also really a good side to this. Not only did 'we' (the project) find ourselves in a situation where we needed help from the villagers, they saw that they were actually able to help us and chose to do so. It showed that S had been able to build up enough trust with his neighbors that they were trusted him with the (precious) generator battery that is needed to pump the water. That is a big thing! And so maybe, just maybe, this event has contributed toward creating more opportunity for S to share his vision on improving living conditions both spiritually and physically with his neighbors.

## Progress at Académie Evangélique Cornerstone de Maradi



It has been quite a while since we last gave you an update about what has been happening at the Académie Evangélique Cornerstone de Maradi (AECM), and things certainly have continued to move on! One major hurdle has recently been overcome and we are very thankful that we now also have the official recognition for the secondary school. As with the elementary level, we add one class each year. Thus, this year we have two classes at the secondary level and we went from 5 to 18 students! (In elementary we have 142 students).

The main challenge is that we are still looking for funding to be able to build the necessary extra classrooms to house the secondary level. For the moment we are renting two rooms at the Maza Tsaye Centre for Ministries which is located on the same terrain as the AECM school.

There are other challenges too, of course. The other day Moustapha, the adjunct director, called me to report on a meeting with the governmental supervisory service for secondary schools. One of the issues the director of the supervisory service brought up was the obligation to have a director for the secondary level and a so called 'surveillant' whose job it is to supervise the students outside of the classrooms. So, we discussed what this might look like at AECM with just 18 students at the secondary level. Not only do these 18 students not give enough work to occupy a director and a 'surveillant' full time, their school fees also do not provide enough income to pay for their salaries. Taken at face value the governmental regulations do not really provide for a starting secondary school. It then takes some creativity to comply with the official regulations and have a workable solution for our situation. For the time being two of the teachers at the secondary school will fulfil the roles of director and 'surveillant' next to their teaching job.

What we really rejoice about though is that little by little, despite the numerous obstacles and difficulties, we see our vision regarding the school (good quality academic education on a Christian foundation) being realised.

## Impression of new training program

A television station in Maradi made a short reportage about the new training program we started up recently at Centre Caleb. You will find here a link to this video too (French spoken with Dutch subtitles.)

Click the picture to watch the movie



With our love,  
Blaise, Jeannette, Caleb and Phoebé

### To thank for:

- That the new trainings program is going well.
- That our family continues to be and do well and that we have been able to see how it really has been a good thing to be together as a family in Niamey.
- We are thankful for this cooler season of the year!

### To pray for:

- This is election season in Niger. Pray for the transition period and a good installation of a new administration in the communes and a new president for the nation.
- Sunday and his responsibilities at Training Centre Caleb.
- To reduce the COVID 19 infection rates schools will remain closed till January 10 (instead of January 4). Pray that they will indeed be able to resume classes on January 10 and that there will be no further time lost in the lesson programs.

[Donate now](#)

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