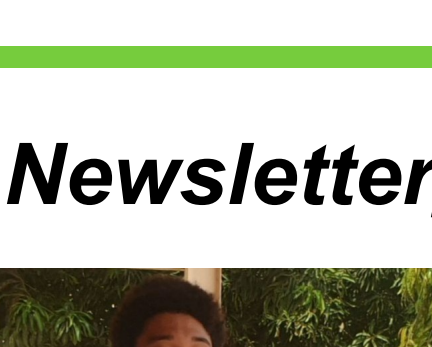
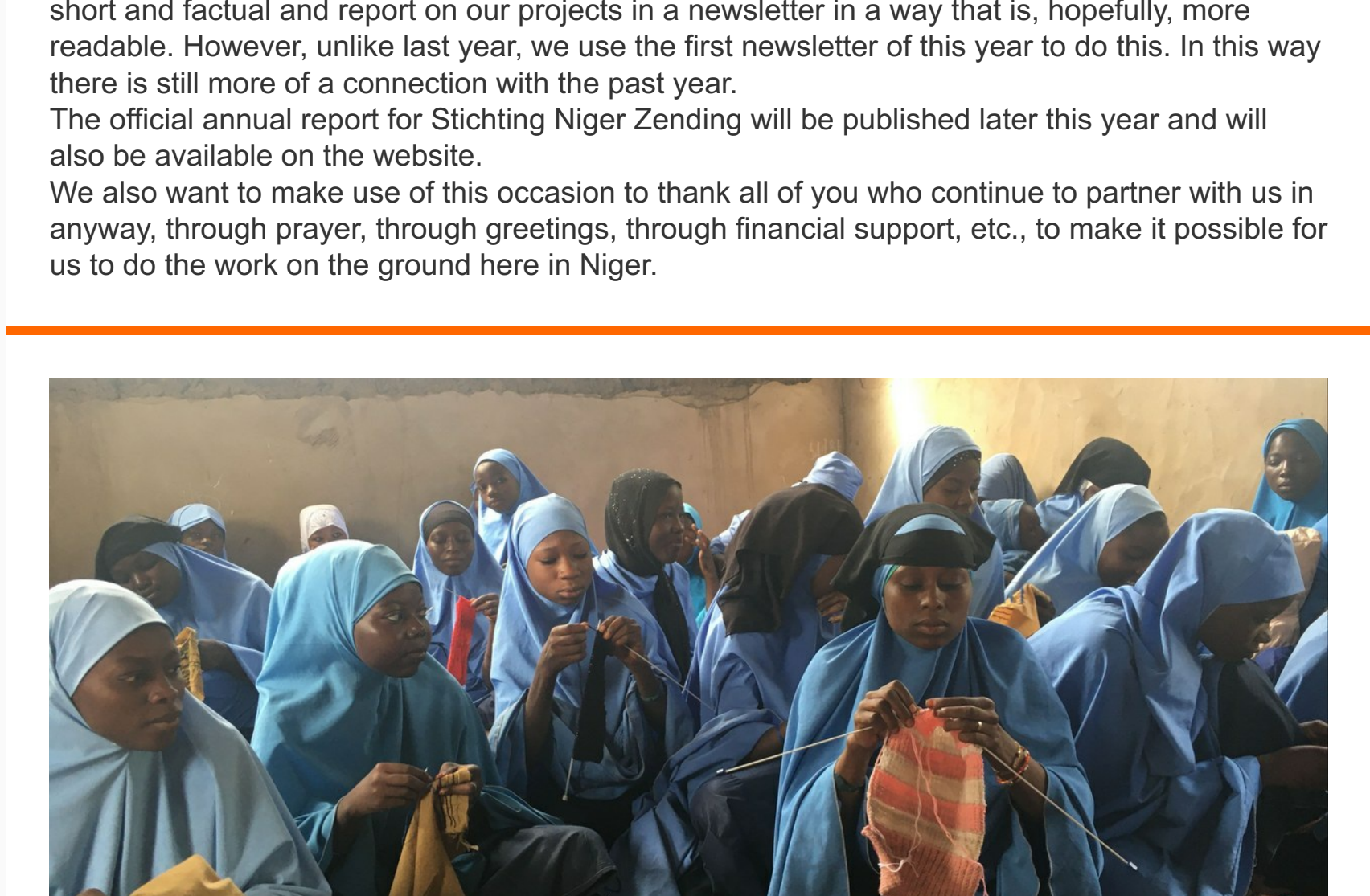


# Bene Koytara Goyterey

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



## Dear friends/readers of our Newsletter,



Like last year we want to keep the official annual report for Stichting Niger Zending relatively short and factual and report on our projects in a newsletter in a way that is, hopefully, more readable. However, unlike last year, we use the first newsletter of this year to do this. In this way there is still more of a connection with the past year.

The official annual report for Stichting Niger Zending will be published later this year and will also be available on the website.

We also want to make use of this occasion to thank all of you who continue to partner with us in anyway, through prayer, through greetings, through financial support, etc., to make it possible for us to do the work on the ground here in Niger.



### Caleb Training Centre

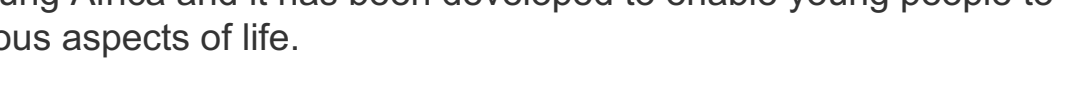
During 2022 the 150 girls and women who started in October 2021 continued their training. Even though not all were able to do the tests at the end of the school year in May/June 2022, all did return to start the second year in October. That was a first! Ever since Caleb Training Centre was started in 2010 there would be those who, for a variety of reasons, would not return for their second year of training. To have all those who did the first year come back for the second year shows that getting training is slowly but surely being given higher priority, and that is wonderful. Those that were not able to do the tests at the end of the first year were given an additional test to check their level.

Sunday continues to be the general manager; Mrs Eli also continues to teach literacy and as a pastoral counselor; Mrs Alissa teaches knitting and embroidery; and Mrs Aisha comes very regularly to make her voluntary contribution in the teaching of certain social skill, what it means to dress well, hygiene, but also making soap, cooking, etc.

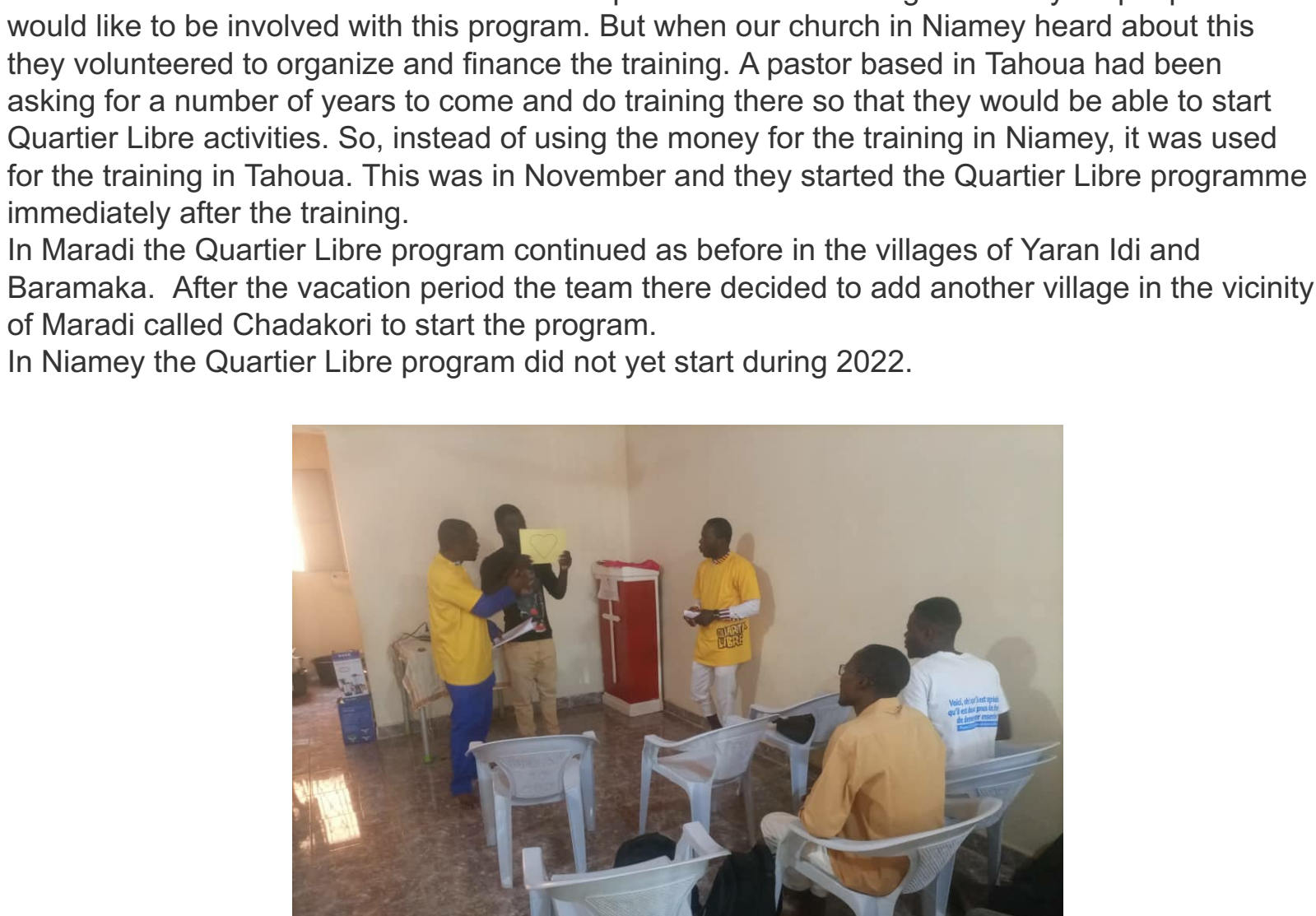
### Poor condition main building



Over the building  
The roof of the main building is very close to either collapsing or being blown away. The termites have severely damaged the wood structure of the roof and it has become urgent to put a new roof on the building. It would be preferable if at the same time some other parts could be renovated as well (a.o. the toilet/shower) to keep the total costs lower, but those are less urgent.



### Discipleship Training School (DTS)



The 8 participants who started their DTS in October 2021 continued during the year 2022. For this group too, all 8 came back after the vacation period from June to September and started again in October. In the morning from 8 to 12 they take part in the training at Caleb Training Centre and in the afternoon they have their activities related to the discipleship training. These activities concern teaching by various pastors on subjects like: How to do bible study?; What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?; How to give a personal testimony?; and other subjects. Sunday and Mme Eli also teach from material called 'Life Skills'. This is material we received from an organisation called Young Africa and it has been developed to enable young people to make informed choices in various aspects of life.

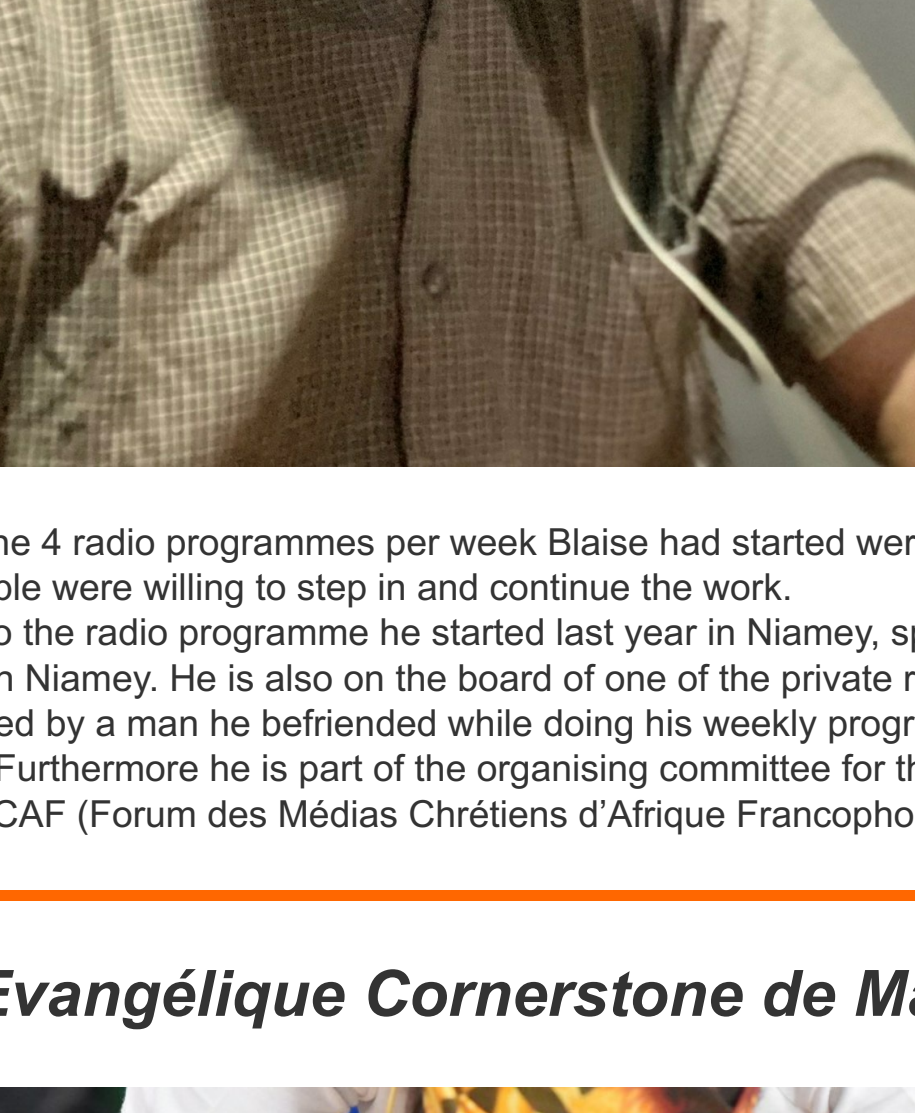
### King's Kids/Quartier Libre (Free Zone)

The King's Kids activities in Niamey continued as usual during 2022. There were weekly meetings on Sundays during which the focus was on learning mime and songs. Family visits were organized and they continued discussions regarding the starting up of Quartier Libre activities in Niamey. The King's Kids were invited to animate certain bigger meetings and for fun an outing was organized (pick nick).

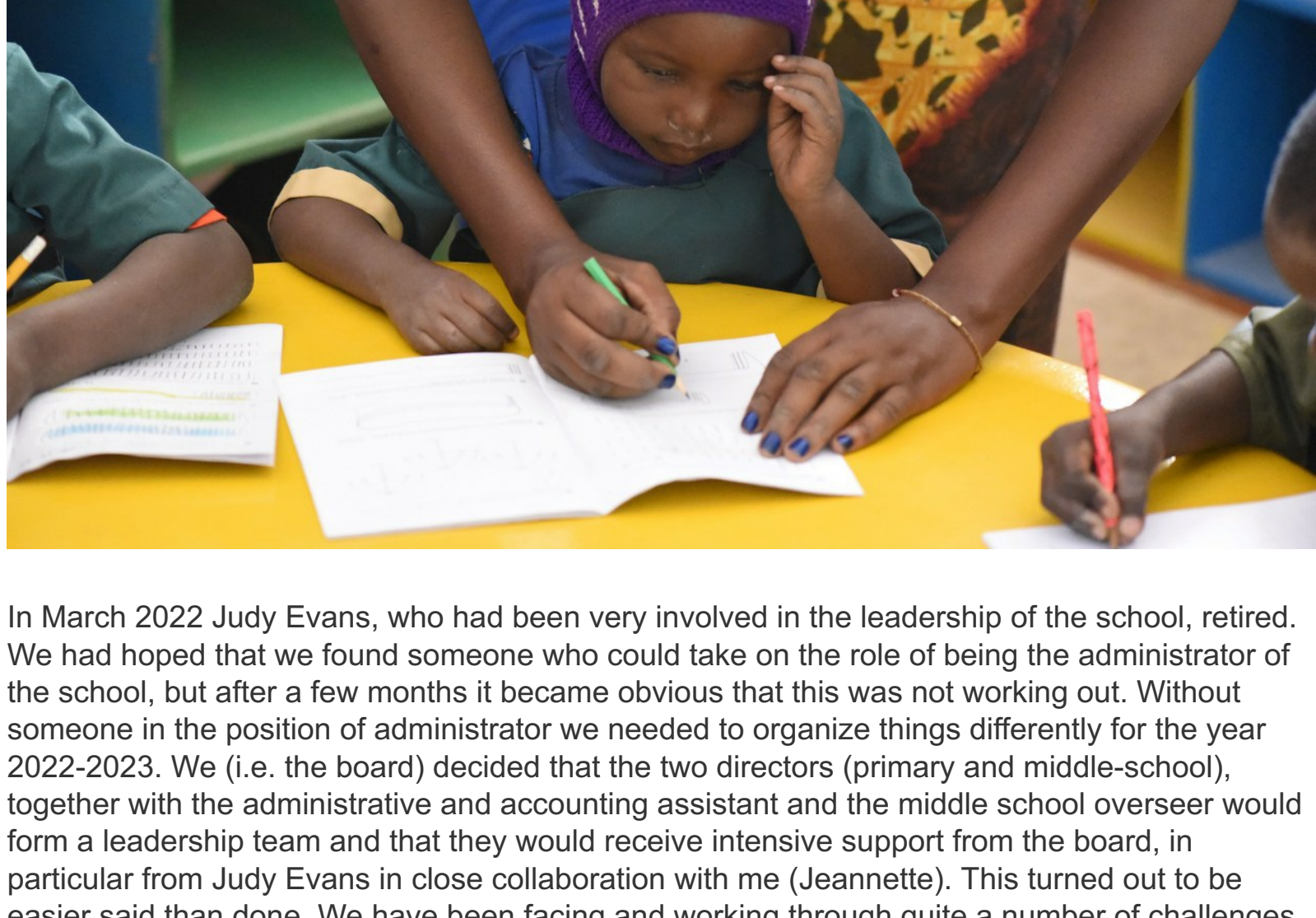
We were able to get funding for the Quartier Libre programme for the school year 2022-2023 from a fund in the USA. One of the activities planned was a training in Niamey for people who would like to be involved with this program. But when our church in Niamey heard about this they volunteered to organize and finance the training. A pastor based in Tahoua had been asking for a number of years to come and do training there so that they would be able to start Quartier Libre activities. So, instead of using the money for the training in Niamey, it was used for the training in Tahoua. This was in November and they started the Quartier Libre programme immediately after the training.

In Maradi the Quartier Libre program continued as before in the villages of Yaran Idi and Baramaka. After the vacation period the team there decided to add another village in the vicinity of Maradi called Chadakori to start the program.

In Niamey the Quartier Libre program did not yet start during 2022.

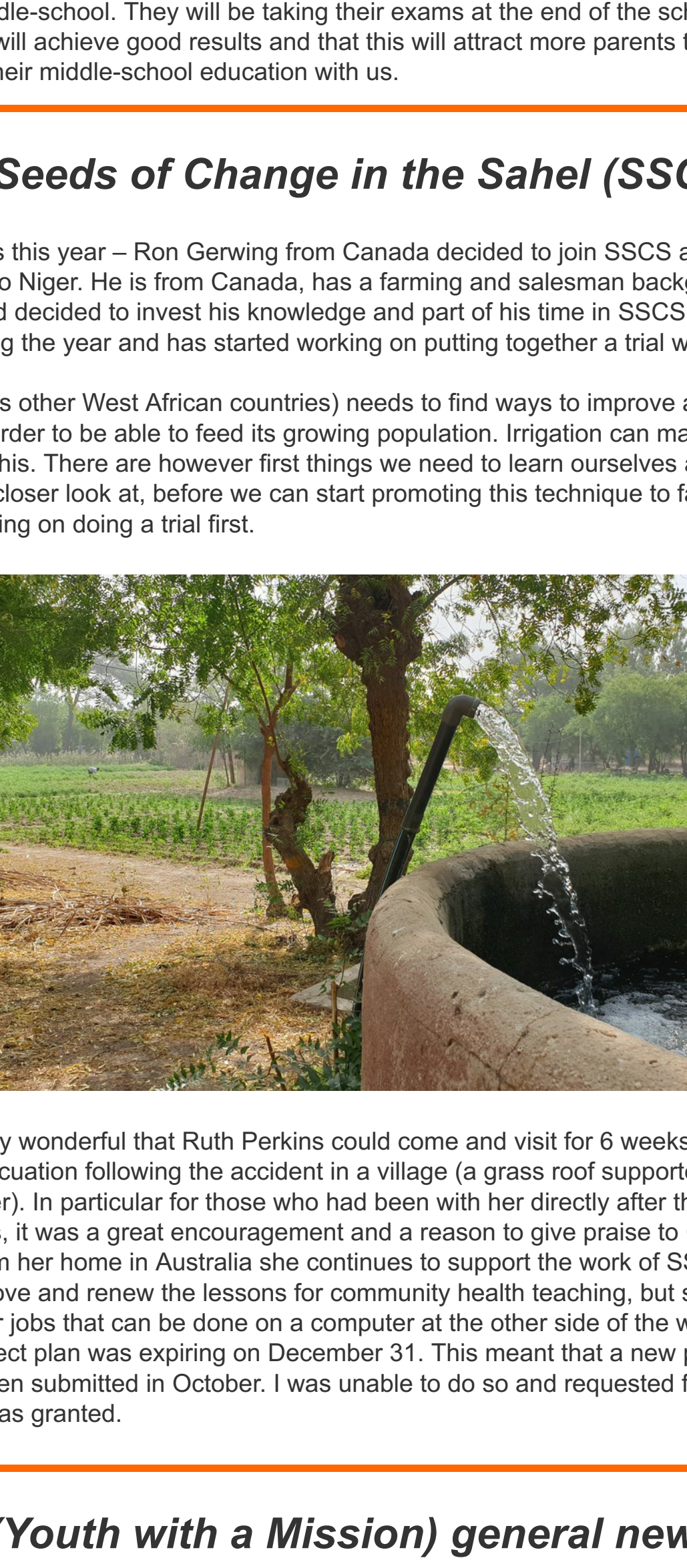


Quartier Libre training in Tahoua



Quartier Libre in the region Maradi

### Radiowork



After we left Maradi the 4 radio programmes per week Blaise had started were able to continue because several people were willing to step in and continue the work.

Blaise continues to do the radio programme he started last year in Niamey, sponsored by the church we're part of in Niamey. He is also on the board of one of the private radio stations in Maradi that was started by a man he befriended while doing his weekly programmes at another private radio station. Furthermore he is part of the organising committee for the annual conference of FOMECAF (Forum des Médias Chrétiens d'Afrique Francophone).

### Académie Evangélique Cornerstone de Maradi



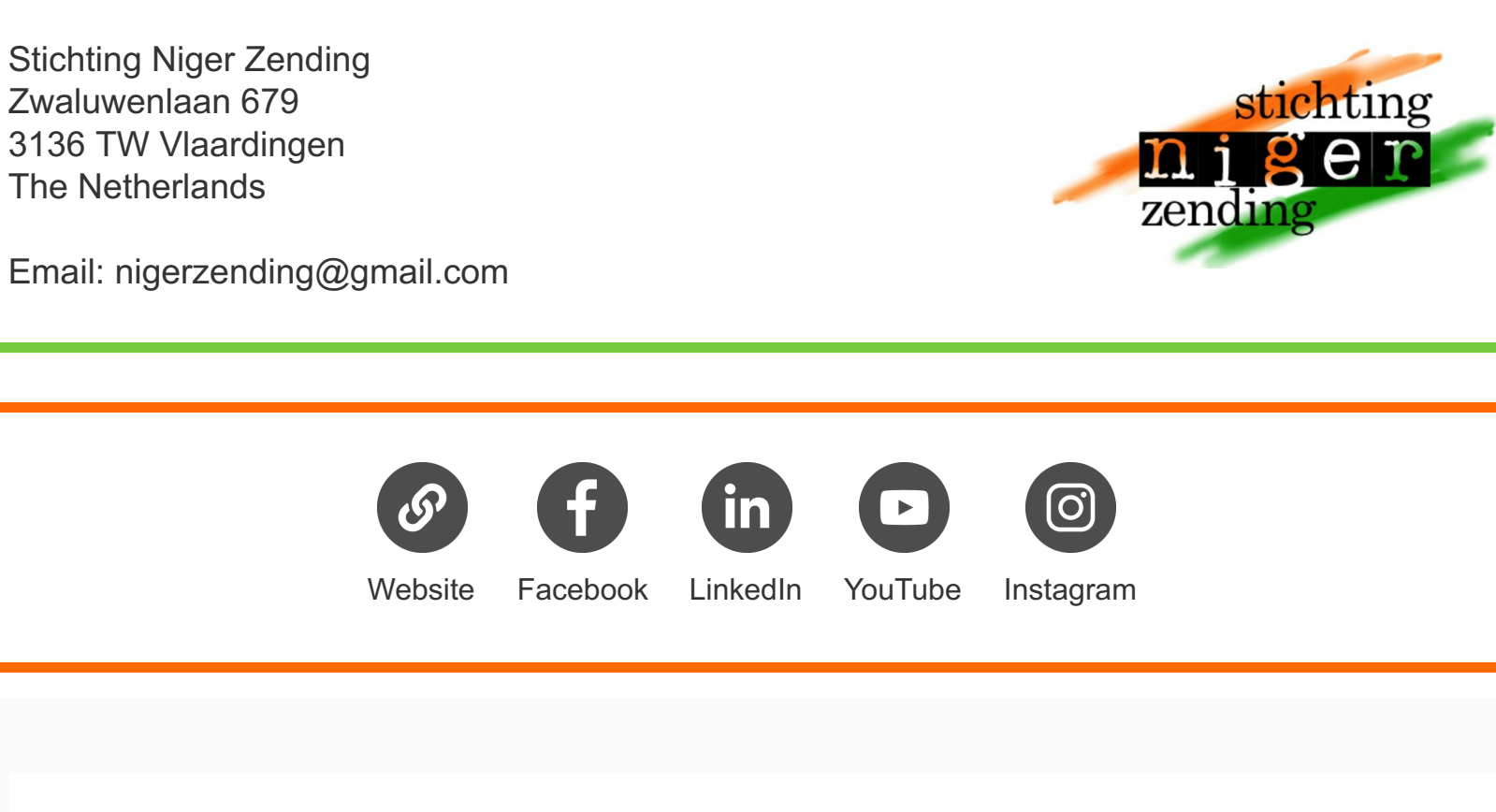
In March 2022 Judy Evans, who had been very involved in the leadership of the school, retired. We had hoped that we found someone who could take on the role of being the administrator of the school, but after a few months it became obvious that this was not working out. Without someone in the position of administrator we needed to organize things differently for the year 2022-2023. We (i.e. the board) decided that the two directors (primary and middle-school), together with the administrative and accounting assistant and the middle school overseer would form a leadership team and that they would receive intensive support from the board, in particular from Judy Evans in close collaboration with me (Jeannette). This turned out to be easier said than done. We have been facing and working through quite a number of challenges to coach the leadership team to actually work together as a team and be able to take on the actual management of the school. Till December we continued to work on this. This, however, just concerns the overall management of the school. Regarding the day to day business of teaching children the work is continuing well with teachers being engaged in their work with the students. They use exercises and other additional material to help the children learn and understand the subjects better. Making use of sufficient exercises is a challenge for many teachers and schools. Often they simply do not have the material and in a class of 60+ children it also becomes quite challenging to do exercises. It is however an important way to help children understand the theory and make it their own. At AECM, therefore, we insist that teachers make use of the additional materials.

The number of students increased somewhat again this year, but not as much as we had hoped to. This means that the financial situation remains unstable and we still depend for a part of the teachers salaries on outside funding. This year is also the first year that we have a group in their last year of middle-school. They will be taking their exams at the end of the school year. We hope that they will achieve good results and that this will attract more parents to send their children to do their middle-school education with us.

### Sowing Seeds of Change in the Sahel (SSCS)

Some highlights this year – Ron Gerwing from Canada decided to join SSCS although he will not be moving to Niger. He is from Canada, has a farming and salesman background, retired during 2022 and decided to invest his knowledge and part of his time in SSCS. He came for two brief visits during the year and has started working on putting together a trial with drip irrigation on about 0.5ha.

Niger (as well as other West African countries) needs to find ways to improve agricultural productivity in order to be able to feed its growing population. Irrigation can make a significant contribution to this. There are however first things we need to learn ourselves and issues we need to take a closer look at, before we can start promoting this technique to farmers. That is why we're working on doing a trial first.



It was absolutely wonderful that Ruth Perkins could come and visit for 6 weeks after her medical emergency evacuation following the accident in a village (a grass roof supported by logs collapsed on her). In particular for those who had been with her directly after the accident, but also for all of us, it was a great encouragement and a reason to give praise to God to see her doing well. From her home in Australia she continues to support the work of SSCS mostly by helping to improve and renew the lessons for community health teaching, but she also helps with some other jobs that can be done on a computer at the other side of the world.

The SSCS project plan was expiring on December 31. This meant that a new project plan should have been submitted in October. I was unable to do so and requested for an extension of a year, which was granted.

### JEMED (Youth with a Mission) general news

In the partnership with Tearfund the focus was on starting up three small printing/photocopy shops in Maradi. Unfortunately prices in our area are increasing too, so the funds available could not cover the materials for three shops and we were obliged to decrease to two shops. Another issue was that we had anticipated that people having successfully finished the computer training course, would be keen to start up their own business. This turned out to be much more challenging than thought. By December 2022 there was one functional shop. For the second shop work Blaise continued to work with various people to distinguish who would be good candidates to help start a business. By the end of December it had been decided whom we would help, but the rest of the details to actually open the shop still needed to be finalized. Another activity that had been planned was a workshop to teach additional skills to those who work in training centres for girls and women. Subsequently these skills could be integrated in the teaching at the centre so that the variety of what the girls and women learn to make increases. However, the trainers for the workshop live in Burkina Faso and because of increased insecurity they could not travel by road. We are thinking about an alternative.

Others in JEMED are involved in work at 2 different primary schools, 3 training centres for girls and women, a foster programme to make it possible for children from very poor families to go to school, pastoring or being part of the leadership of churches, as well as other occasional activities.

### Time in the Netherlands



Walking with Piet and Jeanne, Jeannette's parents

A big "event" during 2022 was obviously that we were able to spend two months in the Netherlands. The last time had been six years earlier in 2016. We greatly enjoyed being able to spend time with our (grand)parents and brother and sister-in-law as well as some other members of the extended family. Sadly the 2 months did not give us enough time to visit everyone we would have liked to, but it was good to see those we could. We were also glad for the churches and groups where we were invited to come and share about the work we have the privilege to be part of in Niger. Another part of our time was also to simply relax and for that it was nice to be able to do some fun things.

### To thank for:

- Health and strength during 2022 to be able to continue the diverse works we're involved in.
- Having been kept safe during our various travels throughout the year.
- Provision of sufficient means to pay the bills, live and sustain the work.
- The engagement of the present group of students at Caleb Training Centre and at the DTS.
- The faithfulness of the teachers in their work at AECM.
- Ayoub Sabo and Abou Harouna who carry SSCS's work on the ground.

### To pray for:

- Health and strength, safe keeping and provision again for 2023.
- Wisdom in decision making regarding our various involvements.
- Finding a good alternative for the planned training programme for trainers in Niamey.
- That the leadership team at AECM would really become a team and learn to handle the administrative management of the school; that we will find a trained administrative aide/bookkeeper; that we will find others who are in Maradi and willing to serve on the board of the school.
- Funds to replace the roof of the main building at Soura and possibly also do the other renovations.
- Wisdom to write up a good SSCS project plan for the next 5 years.
- Wisdom also to decide on a good project plan in the collaboration with Tearfund.

With our love,

Blaise, Jeannette, Caleb and Phoebe

Donate now

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