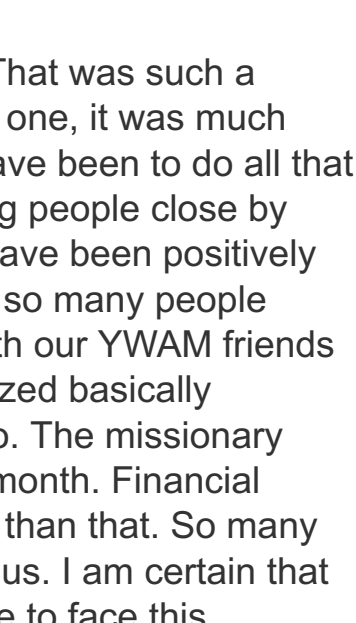


Bene Koytara Goyterey

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



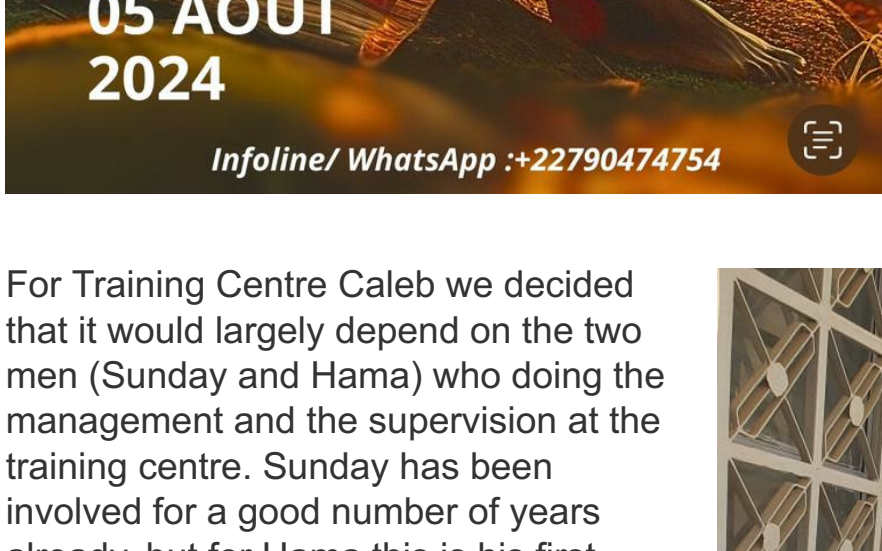
Dear friends and readers of our Newsletter,



At the moment of writing this in preparation for our next newsletter it has been 12 weeks since Blaise was killed in that awful accident. It still feels more like it has been only a few days rather than 12 weeks. Yet, at the same time much has been going on because, even if at times it felt like life came to a standstill in reality it didn't of course and, 12 weeks really have gone by.

For the first month after Blaise's death we stayed with missionary friends. That was such a wonderful gift they offered me and the kids. It helped us in many ways. For one, it was much less tiring to receive all the visitors during those first weeks than it would have been to do all that while in our own home. And of course it did us so much good to have caring people close by who were just there for us. I also want to add here that in a general way I have been positively overwhelmed by and so, so grateful for, the outpouring of love and care by so many people close by and far away in many different ways. Our church here together with our YWAM friends and colleagues (our YWAM team in Niger now consists of 5 people) organized basically everything for the funeral and were of great support in many other ways too. The missionary community here provided our friends and us with many meals for a whole month. Financial support came together for the repatriation of Blaise's body and much more than that. So many people around the world have been praying for us and continue to pray for us. I am certain that this has been sustaining Caleb, Phoebé and I, giving us strength and peace to face this traumatic event and now to continue and learn to live life differently.

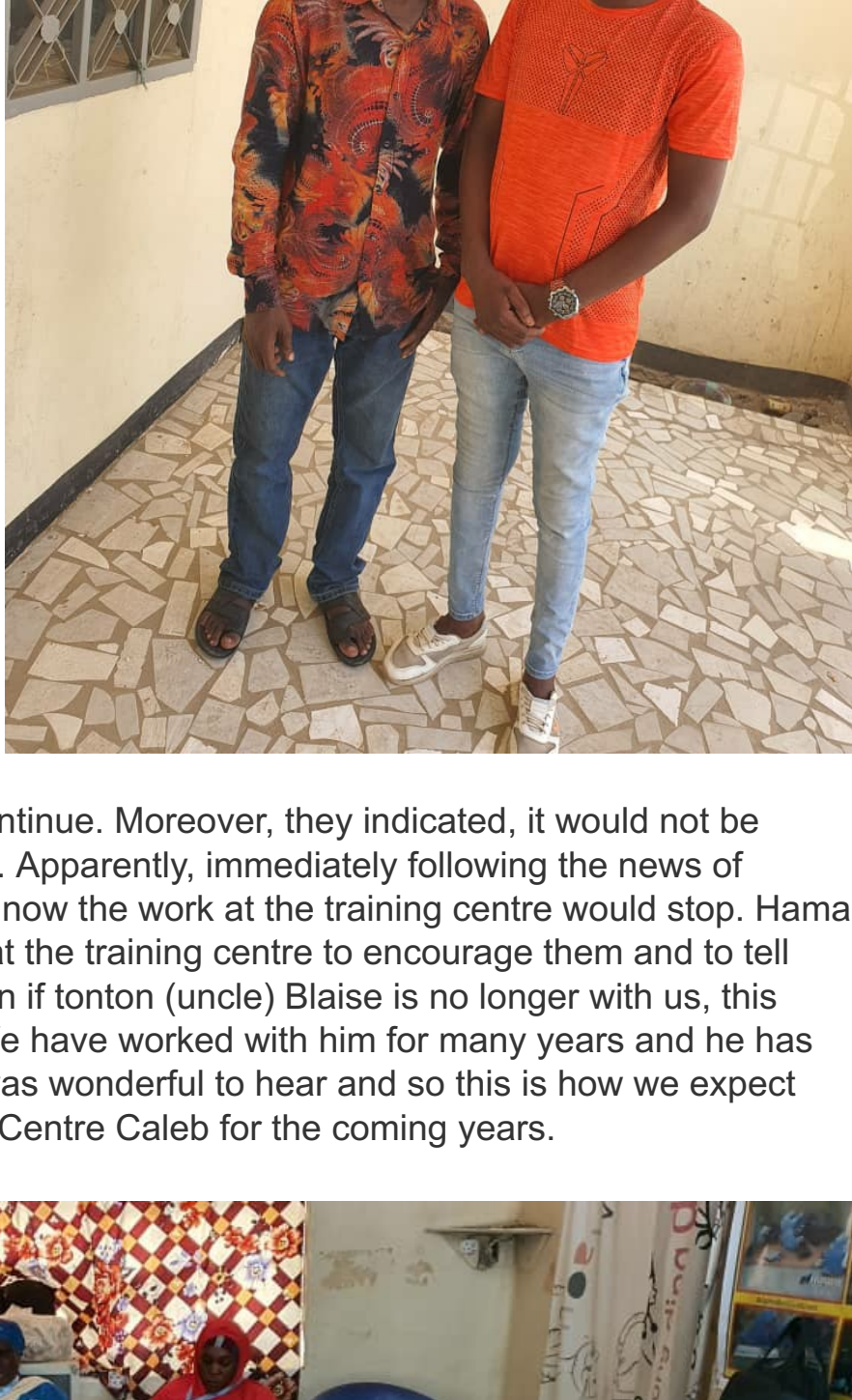
And so, how are we doing now? What are we doing now? The week before Easter, which was the Easter break at Sahel Academy, we returned to our own home. In that way we could have a quite week at home preparing to get back into the routine of getting everything ready for the daily school routine (things like school lunches, getting out of bed on time, etc.). In fact, Caleb had mostly continued to go to school throughout, but for Phoebé it had been very much on and off. After the Easter break both Caleb and Phoebé went back to their daily school routine and I also picked up my usual management activities for the Sowing Seeds of Change in the Sahel project in Maradi, as well as the YWAM project activities.



With the YWAM team here we also restarted our weekly meetings. The three main subjects that we have been discussing these past weeks concerned the continuation of Training Centre Caleb in Maradi, the project Blaise had started to organize a big YWAM international summer camp in Niamey (in collaboration with the person who is the leader for YWAM's work in West-Africa) and how we see the future of YWAM Niger.

As for the international summer camp we decided that as YWAM Niger we still wanted the camp to take place here and Paul Zagre was willing to step in and take on heading up the organizational aspect.

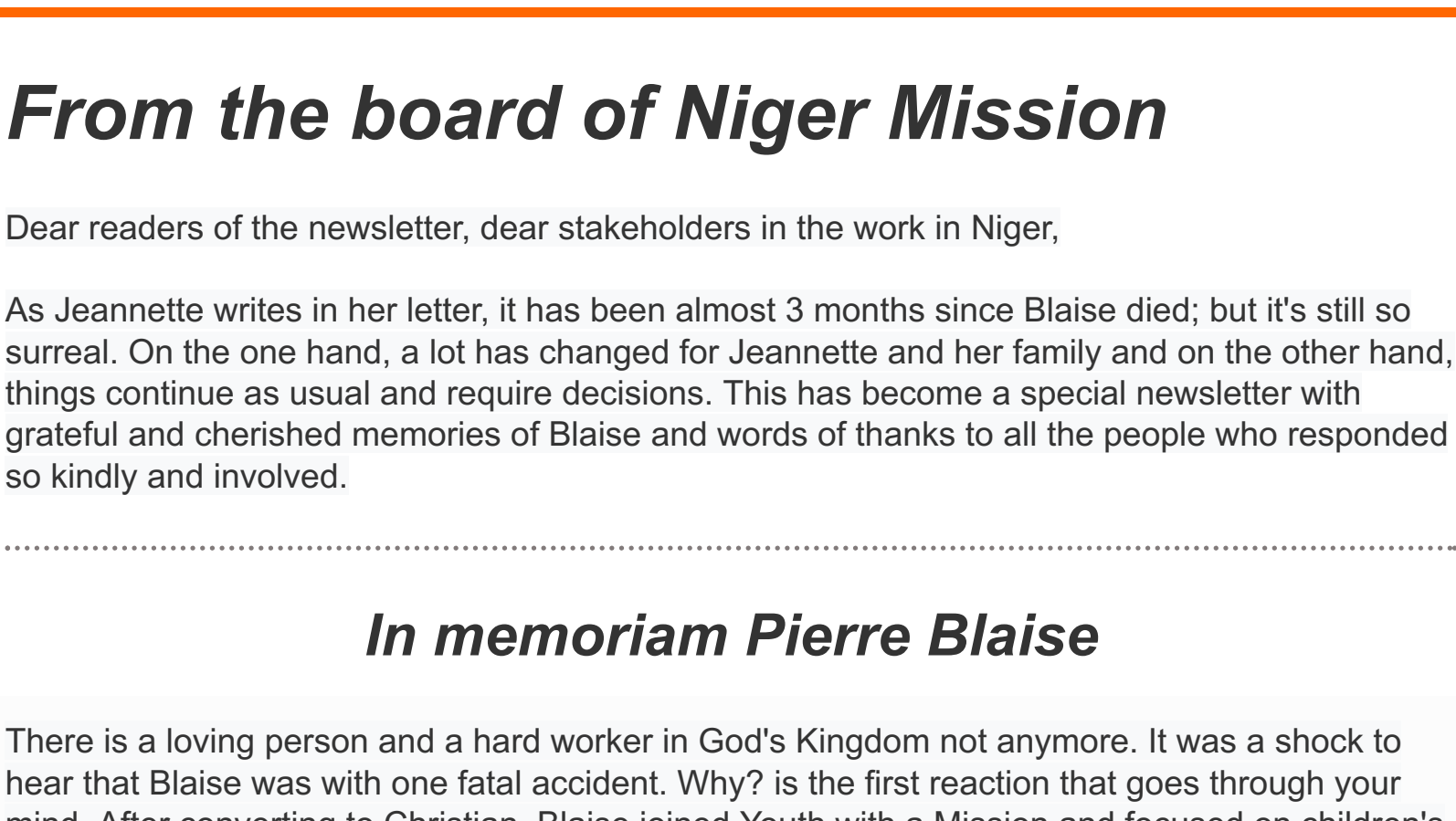
For Training Centre Caleb we decided that it would largely depend on the two men (Sunday and Hama) who doing the management and the supervision at the training centre. Sunday has been involved for a good number of years already, but for Hama this is his first year. He had, however, also been working together with Blaise in the area of child and youth work for many years. Both therefore, know the vision for Training Centre Caleb very well. But thus far, Blaise had continued to be closely involved in the supervision. This now would no longer be possible. For the training centre to continue, they would have to work much more independently from now on. One morning we organized a WhatsApp call between us (the YWAM team) and Sunday and Hama in Maradi and we were truly encouraged by what they shared with us. Both told us that they very much want the training centre to be able to continue to function. They have seen how much it means to the girls and women to receive the training, and therefore, as they said, it is important to continue. Moreover, they indicated, it would not be honoring Blaise's memory to stop the work. Apparently, immediately following the news of Blaise's death, word had gone around that now the work at the training centre would stop. Hama shared how he had talked with the others at the training centre to encourage them and to tell them to stop talking like that. He said: "even if tonton (uncle) Blaise is no longer with us, this does not mean that we cannot continue. We have worked with him for many years and he has prepared us to be able to continue." This was wonderful to hear and so this is how we expect the work to be able to continue at Training Centre Caleb for the coming years.



And then for us as a family life is going to change even more in the near future. As I had written before, Caleb is in his final year at Sahel Academy and will be graduating on June 6. He is graduating together with three other boys and the four of them have become quite close friends over the years. So this is a season of saying goodbye for them, because they will be spreading out to four different countries on two different continents.



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Four gowns are ready for the ceremony.

As I mentioned above, the support I, and we as a family, have received during this season has been enormous. This also has made it possible for us to travel to the Netherlands together this summer. We are on various levels very grateful for this opportunity. It will give us the possibility to spend time with family and friends, which is especially important and precious during this season. It will also give us the possibility to rest much better then when staying in Niger. And I am very glad that now I will at least be able to accompany Caleb on his entrance into this next stage in his life in the Netherlands. It is too early to share anything specific on how things are looking for him. That will remain for a next letter. And when Phoebé and I return to Niger, Phoebé will be starting a new season in her life too since she will be entering into high school; not to speak of the fact that then it will just be the two of us.

So, please, do continue to pray for us, because those are a lot of very impacting changes in only a short period of time!

With our love,
Jeannette, Caleb and Phoebé

From the board of Niger Mission

Dear readers of the newsletter, dear stakeholders in the work in Niger,

As Jeannette writes in her letter, it has been almost 3 months since Blaise died; but it's still so surreal. On the one hand, a lot has changed for Jeannette and her family and on the other hand, things continue as usual and require decisions. This has become a special newsletter with grateful and cherished memories of Blaise and words of thanks to all the people who responded so kindly and involved.

In memoriam Pierre Blaise

There is a loving person and a hard worker in God's Kingdom not anymore. It was a shock to hear that Blaise was with one fatal accident. Why? is the first reaction that goes through your mind. After converting to Christian, Blaise joined Youth with a Mission and focused on children's and youth work. He grew in the work and saw more opportunities to help people move forward and to share his faith and trust share with the people of Niger. Together with Jeannette he developed great initiatives of which Center Caleb and AECM (Academy Evangelique Cornerstone de Maradi) bring you the will be best known. But discipleship training was also close to his heart. People were close to his heart. He wanted to show them what Jesus wants to mean in their lives. He clearly showed his love for his wife and children, as evidenced by the beautiful photos Facebook often supplemented with words of praise and thanks to his heavenly Father. Blaise was a beautiful and grateful person and was appreciated by many people. And actually it doesn't surprise us how many people react with shock and sadness on his death. In February he went to Tanzania for a course to better perform his job. But God brought him home. The loss and sadness is great and he will be missed as a missionary but even more so as a husband, father, son-in-law, brother-in-law and friend. As the Niger Mission Foundation, we also stand by Jeannette, Caleb and Phoebé and will help them, to the extent that we as humans can, support as much as possible.

Biography of Pierre Blaise Gaïtou

Pierre Blaise Gaïtou, born on January 28, 1972 in a simple family in Tillabéri, was a remarkable man. After primary school in Niamey he went to secondary school in the same city, where he obtained his BEPC diploma in 19901 achieved.

In 1991/1992 he had an encounter that would change his life: he came to know the Lord and... wanted to serve Him. From then on he started as a Sunday school teacher. For six years, from 1992 to 1998, he shared his faith and love for God with the children. He wanted to be with them with heart and soul and work, lead and inspire them.

- Between 1996 and 1998, Pierre Blaise Gaïtou enrolled at the Evening Bible School of the Baptist Church in Niamey.

- In 1998-1999 he attended the Discipleship Training School of Youth with an Assignment in Koutiala, Mali. These first experiences with Youth with a Mission were decisive his further life.

- He continued his education at the School of Youth with a Mission to specialize in working with children and young people, this time in Dakar, Senegal.

- In 2000-2001 he took a leadership course to train others in how to work with children and young people.

- It was also in 2000 that he started the work of the Fabricants de Joie in Niamey.

- Between 2000 and 2003, he served as a staff member in the Discipleship Training Schools located in Niamey were organized.

Blaise was a man who was constantly looking for opportunities to shape his ideas to give. This search led to participation in numerous training courses; especially in the field of leadership.

In 2008 he moved to Maradi with his family to start Youth with a Mission, with the focus on the Fabricants de Joie. Once in Maradi, Blaise was touched by the situation uneducated and unemployed youth. He felt the need to help them.

So in 2010 he founded the Caleb Training Center to train girls and women. He was also one of the founders of the Académie Evangélique Cornerstone de Maradi, which was founded in 2011 opened.

In October 2016, after the kidnapping of Jeff Woodke, who until then was the director of Youth with a Mission assignment in Niger, Blaise took on the role of interim director.

In 2018, he was elected director of Youth with a Mission in Niger.

From 2018 to 2022 he was part of the leadership team for the work of Youth with Disabilities Assignment in North Africa.

Since 2019, he has been involved in leadership development for the work of Youth with a Mission in Chad.

From 2018 to 2020, Blaise was part of the leadership team of the Fabricants de Joie for West Africa.

In 2019, he was asked to take on the position of leader within the Fabricants de Joie to take on the leadership development program of Fabricants de Joie in Nigeria.

In 2022, the leadership team of Fabricants de Joie International invited Blaise to join to connect them. His continued involvement in this field is a testament to his passion for it 1 After the first 4 years of high school leadership development and his dedication to this cause.

Since childhood, Blaise had a passion for music and radio broadcasting. Before going to Maradi, he was regularly involved in Christian radio programs. Once in Maradi searched he quickly looked for opportunities to host a regular program. In 2010 his dream came out and the programs he launched on various radio stations in Maradi continue to this day continues today, thanks to others who took over after he left for Niamey in 2020.

In the field of Christian radio programming, Blaise also played an active role in the Forum des Médias Chrétiens pour l'Afrique Francophone (FOMECAF). He has been part of since 2019 the organization's management team.

More recently, from 2022, he also got involved with Dieu TV for television programs. Blaise's passion for communicating and spreading positive messages has a left a lasting mark on the Christian media landscape.

Pierre Blaise Gaitou, 52 years old, has dedicated his life to serving others. In Tanzania, where he was on a mission, death brutally took him from us on Saturday, February 24, 2024 middle. Pierre Blaise Gaïtou leaves behind a wife, a son and daughter, who will continue his legacy with love and will continue to wear proudly, but he also leaves an indelible mark in the hearts of those he touched and his dedication to the Christian faith will continue for generations to come continue to inspire.

Tranquillement Tranquille.

Written by Paul Zagre in collaboration with Jeannette

Many donations have been received for Jeannette after the terrible traffic accident in Arusha in Tanzania, in which Blaise died. Expressions of sympathy and much financial support came from all over the world. We would also like to express our thanks from the board.

Here are also some practical matters:

The Annual Report 2023: the annual report consists of 3 parts: the business annual report; the narrative annual report for 2023 with all the stories about the projects (also the April 2024 newsletter); and the annual financial report. All three are on the site under annual report.

[jaarverslag](#).

NB! The email address from which you receive the newsletter has changed; All regular readers have received a message about this, so hopefully this newsletter did not end up in your spam. So pay attention to your spam box! This email address is: nigerzending@outlook.com

The email address of Nigerzending has not changed and remains: nigerzending@gmail.com

Extra gift Giving Tuesday: Piet Baas, our treasurer, would like to express his gratitude for the Christmas thanksgiving offering that was held in a church community in the Netherlands. This was in response to our Giving Tuesday campaign for solar panels. This additional gift of € 1,939.75 has now been forwarded and spent on the solar energy installation of the Gaitou house.

And from our side the question:

If your email address changes, please let us know! Mail to: nigerzending@gmail.com

Kind regards on behalf of the board Nigerzending.

With our love,
Jeannette, Caleb and Phoebé

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Niger

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Want to help us finance the projects?

You can transfer money by bank:

Stichting Niger Zending

Iban: NL07 RABO 0361834179

BIC: NLBN2L2U

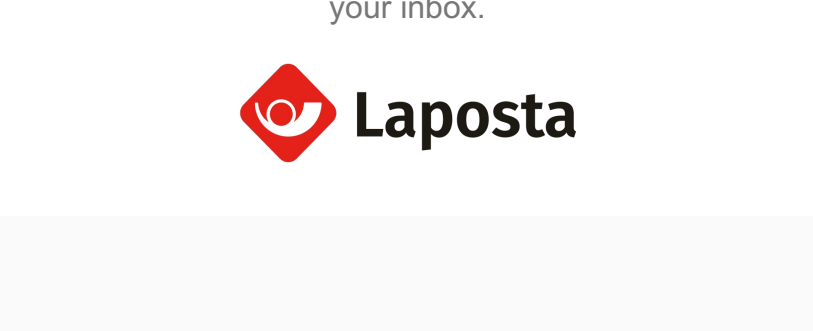
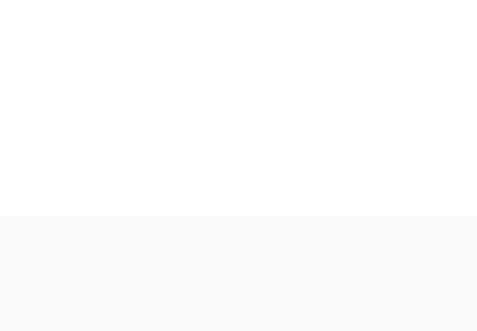
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