

Bene Koytara Goyterey

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



Dear Friends



Greetings from Niamey! Since the last bit of news I wrote about our move to Niamey we have progressed in settling in in our new home. There are still some bits and pieces left to arrange, but at least things have become orderly again. We really like our new home.

In the mean time Caleb and Phoebe have also started school. For Caleb, of course, it's basically business as usual. Phoebe is enjoying her new school very much! She has been making new friends and is enjoying the different way of doing school. Blaise has been back to Maradi twice over the past two months. For the moment he needs to continue to work closely with the team in Maradi to assure good

progress in the various aspects of the work. In this newsletter you will also read about the new opportunities we have had over these past months to increase the activities. Jeannette has not yet been back to Maradi. As a result of all the packing, cleaning and unpacking she has experienced quite a bit of backlog in both her SSCS and YWAM work (administration, record keeping, report writing, etc.). So she is working on catching up on all of that. She is very glad in this respect that in the new house there is a room that stands on its own and that can serve very well as office space.

Big change continued

Recently we wrote about our upcoming move to Niamey. Well, here we are! After two hectic weeks for me of packing up our house combined with setting up my work with Sowing Seeds of Change and the AECM school for continued supervision and involvement from a distance, I am enjoying a relaxed day today at the Baptist guesthouse in Niamey. Blaise too has had two very busy weeks figuring out how to safely transport our belongings from Maradi to Niamey and at the same time launching a new project in partnership with Tearfund (more about this project in one of our next blogs). The truck with our belongings and Blaise with a friend in our car loaded with the more breakable stuff and our two dogs are on their way while I'm writing this. Two or three days from now we should be able to start living in our new home.

As we also mentioned last time, the start of school for Caleb and Phoebe was delayed because of flooding. Really, the flood situation is disastrous. The amount of water flowing into the Niger river because of the rains this year is enormous. Since water level measurements were begun in 1929 the water level has never been as high as it is this year. Many people lost their income (from the gardens and rice paddies along the river), their houses and their belongings. For Sahel Academy members of staff and others have been working hard on many different things at the same time. One of those things was to find (an) alternative location(s) to do school. In the mean time two locations have been found. One location will serve the elementary level and the other the secondary level. Caleb and Phoebe will thus start school again by the end of September/early October. Phoebe will have to get used to doing school in English and Caleb is starting in high- school. We trust that from October we will be able to get into a new routine and that we can begin to settle into our life in Niamey (even though there will be regular trips to Maradi for both Blaise and me).



New opportunities

In earlier years YWAM in Niger had been working in partnership with Tearfund UK for a part of its activities. Mostly as a consequence of the changed situation within the leadership of YWAM Niger, this partnership needed to be reviewed. The whole process took some time and effort, but last January we were able to sign a renewed partnership with Tearfund. This partnership now is no longer for one part of YWAM's activities, but offers opportunities for YWAM's activities wherever we work in Niger.

COVID 19 info by local radio

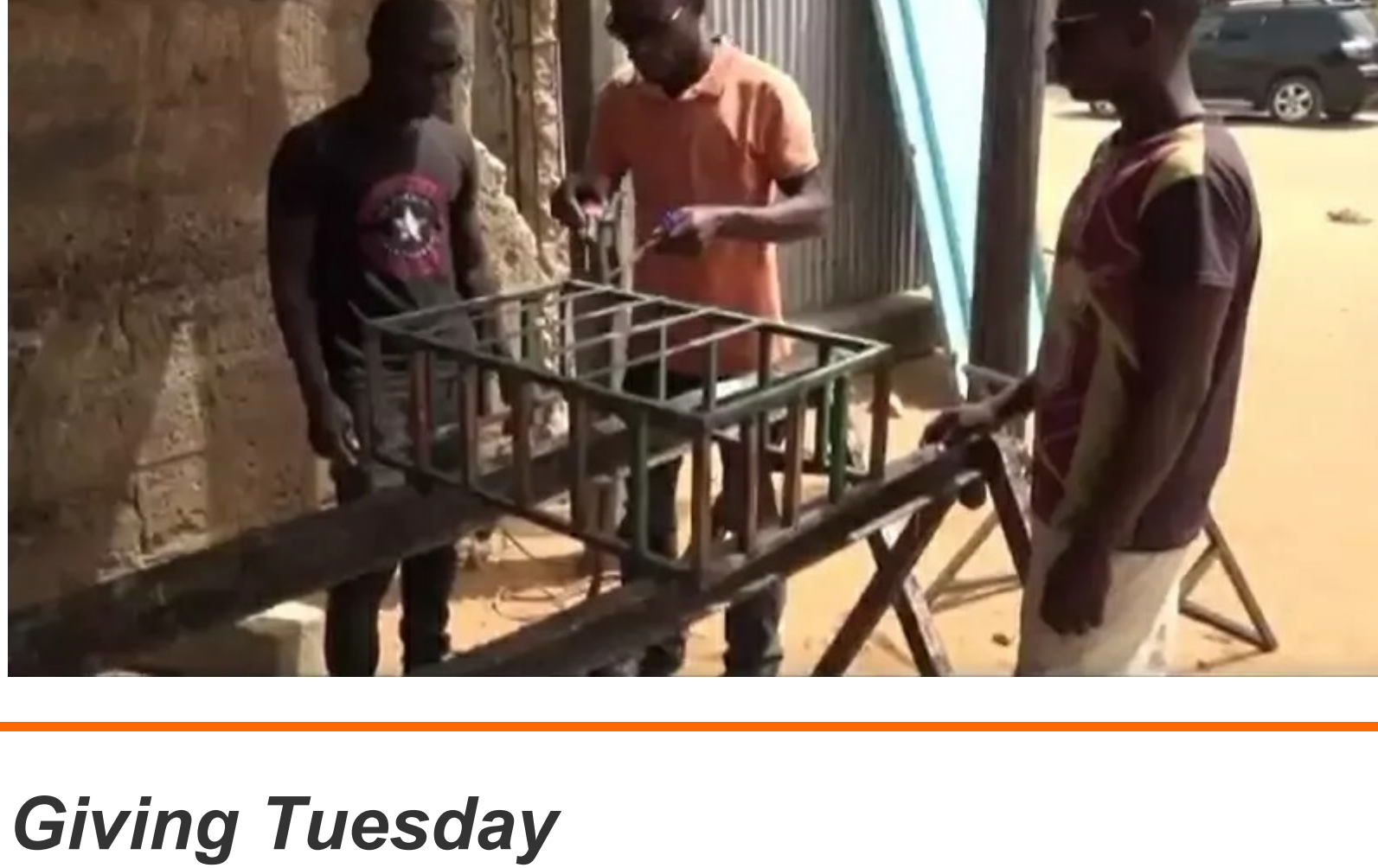
As a result we have been able to do a special project in response to the COVID 19 threat and increase the activities of Training Centre Caleb in Maradi.

Within Niger people receive much information via radio (since a large part of the population is illiterate). In many localities however, there is only access to local radio. In some cases it may therefore be a while before people receive information, or receive correct and adequate information. This was also the case in regard to the situation around the new corona virus. People in villages heard certain things, but the information was far from complete. The government was working on providing information, but the vastness of Niger makes that a big task. The partnership with Tearfund offered us the opportunity to help spread correct information. In June/July of this year we set up a project to do radio programmes in three localities through mobile radio. This means that people within a radius of 100-150 km from the emitter could tune in. The radio programmes provided correct information about COVID 19, people could call with questions, some COVID knowledge games were organized, and at the same time a number of hand wash-stations incl. soap, facemasks and protective gloves were distributed. Thankfully the impact of COVID 19 in Niger has remained very limited till now, but we are glad to have been able to contribute to people having correct information.

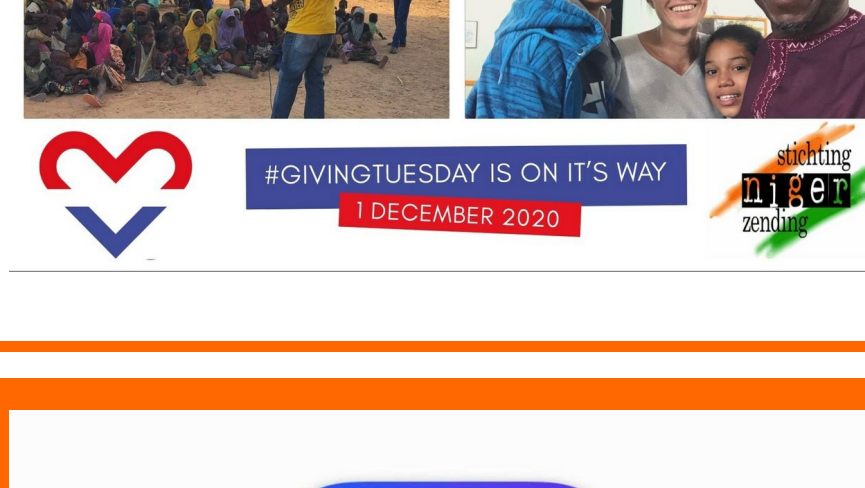


New courses Centre Caleb

The limited formal education of youth continues to be a problem in Niger in general and thus also in Maradi. It was in response to this situation that we started Training Centre Caleb about 10 years ago now. Recently Tearfund has agreed to support this work and as a result we have the opportunity to expand! Next to the group of girls and women who will continue to be trained in literacy, tailoring, knitting and embroidery, a group of in total 30 youth are starting in three different types of training. Twenty have chosen to do computer training, eight are starting a placement in a garage to become a mechanic and two are doing a placement with a welder to learn that trade. The idea is further that they all get together once a month at Centre Caleb for teaching and discussion about life issues (social, emotional, spiritual). We expect that this opportunity will make a difference in the lives of these young people and their families.



Giving Tuesday

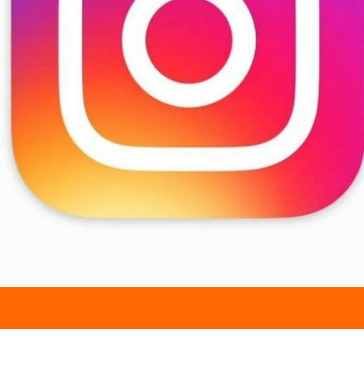


St. Niger Zending will join Giving Tuesday. Giving Tuesday is celebrated on the Tuesday following the well-known shopping days of Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

This year we will celebrate it on 1 December 2020.

A day when people everywhere come together to do something to support the causes and communities that mean so much to us all.

Check your socials. So, what will you do?



NEW
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on Instagram

With our love,

Blaise, Jeannette, Caleb and Phoebe

To thank for:

- our travels – in particular that we will be wise in our decisions in regard to the security situation in the area.
- wisdom for both of us to be able to give good support to the work and people we are involved with in Maradi.
- wisdom in the management of our finances – life in Niamey is more demanding (with its financial consequences) than in Maradi.
- the new school year at Training Centre Caleb (TCC) – for the group of girls and women entering their 3rd year of training, for the group of youth starting their apprenticeship courses, and for the group of women who is coming to do both the Discipleship Training School and the practical training at TCC.

To pray for:

- our move to Niamey went well; we quickly found a good house and all our belongings arrived in good shape.
- that Phoebe has integrated well at her new school and that she is enjoying it.
- that we have been able to expand the activities of TCC.

[Donate now](#)

Blaise, Jeannette, Caleb and Phoebe
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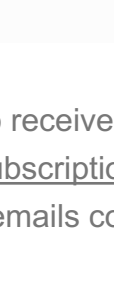
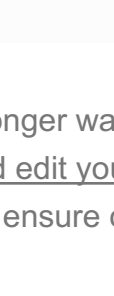
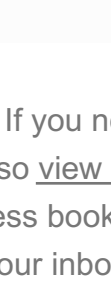
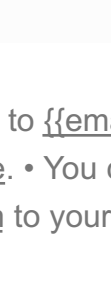
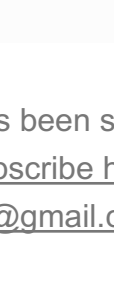
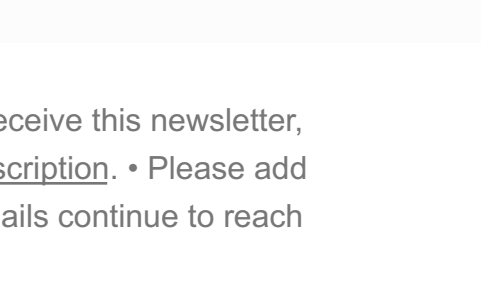
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