

# Bene Koytara Goyterey

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



## Dear friends and readers of our Newsletter,

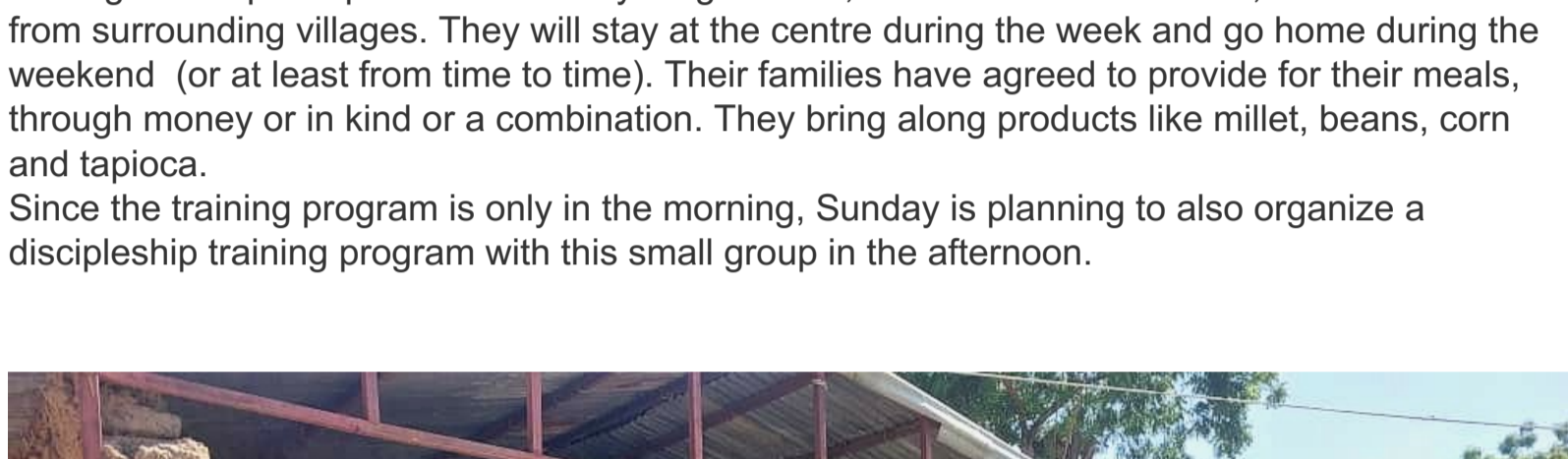


Here's some news again from Niger! Again? Yes! I thought that it would be good to give you a bit more news of things that keep us busy before we enter into the Christmas season and get to the end of the year 2024.

Obviously, I prefer writing about things that are going well, or about how work is moving forward. But we all know that not everything is always going well or moving forward. From time to time there are setbacks, disappointments or challenges.

In this newsletter you can read about both the good and the bad. I'm writing about theft and arson at the SSCS research and demonstration farm, but also about how there has been a new start at Training Centre Caleb.

## A new start at Training Centre Caleb



### ... for the new participants, but also for the leaders

November 4 marked the start of a 3 year training cycle with new group of participants. By that time the water on the roads in Soura had dried up and everyone could get to the centre without getting their feet wet and dirty. And for Sunday and Hama this is the first time that they will be supervising the work without being closely supervised themselves. So, in a way it's actually a double new start.

#### Preparation and subscription

Over the month of October, Sunday and Hama had been working to prepare for the start of the program. Some repairs needed to be organized. For example one of the clay stone walls of the classrooms had collapsed during the rains. The sun dried brick here was that the clay from the collapsed wall could be reused to make new sun dried clay bricks to reconstruct the wall. And they worked with the instructors to get the supplies for this year.

Also during the month of October girls and women came to subscribe themselves for this new training cycle. By the end of October this list counted 155 prospective participants. On November 4 72 participants showed up, but by the end of the week the number had grown till over 100. By the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of November they will finalize the list of participants.

Among the 72 participants are also 8 young women, 7 of whom are Christian, that have come from surrounding villages. They will stay at the centre during the week and go home during the weekend (or at least from time to time). Their families have agreed to provide for their meals, through money or in kind or a combination. They bring along products like millet, beans, corn and tapioca.

Since the training program is only in the morning, Sunday is planning to also organize a discipleship training program with this small group in the afternoon.



#### Why do the women and girls come to Training Centre Caleb?

During the preparations and introductions Sunday asked some of the participants why they had chosen to come to Training Centre Caleb. They answered that it was because they had heard how committed the instructors and the learners are at the centre regarding the work that is being done. And they had also observed how it is helping those who have done the training in their daily lives. That, of course, was very encouraging to hear and a boost for all involved at the centre to start this new training cycle with renewed energy.



#### First principles reading and writing

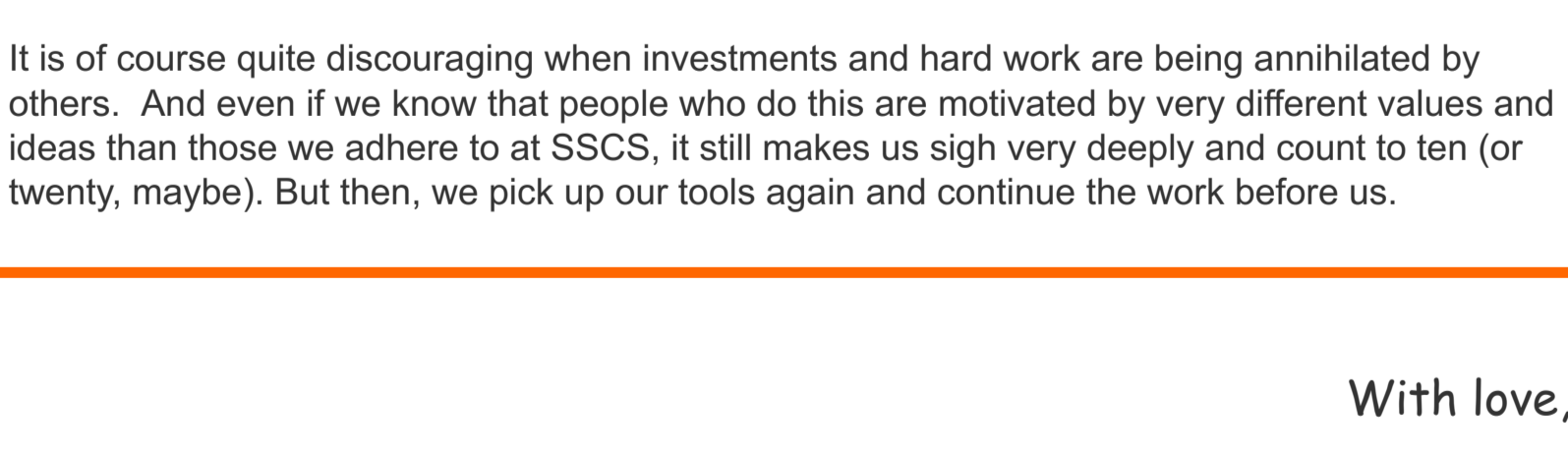
## Disappointments and challenges

#### About theft, arson and counting to 10...

One evening, earlier this year, I saw that Ayouba (the farm manager at the Sowing Seeds of Change in the Sahel research farm in Maradi) sent me a WhatsApp message. That's not unusual as such. But when I read the message it was very unpleasant news. Ayouba explained that the immersion pumps out of two of the wells got stolen. These pumps are used during the dry season for irrigation. Furthermore, he wrote that the thieves also cut and stole a part of the electrical wiring for the distribution of electricity to the pumps.



And if that was not enough, there were also 7 piles of millet stalks that had been burned. These millet stalks were put in piles to be cut up into small pieces. Those pieces we then redistribute over the fields to increase the organic matter content of the soil. Now we were left with the ashes. Thankfully, the field preparation for the agricultural season was already well underway and there were no dry weeds on the fields. If not, this arson could have had disastrous consequences.



It is of course quite discouraging when investments and hard work are being annihilated by others. And even if we know that people who do this are motivated by very different values and ideas than those we adhere to at SSCS, it still makes us sigh very deeply and count to ten (or twenty, maybe). But then, we pick up our tools again and continue the work before us.

With love,  
Jeannette

### To thank for

- A good start with a new group at Training Centre Caleb;
- Motivated team members at SSCS who continue the work in Maradi and the villages we're involved in;
- Faithful family and friends near and far who continue to look after us; Caleb in the Netherlands and Phoebe and myself here in Niger.

### To pray for

- Good collaboration between Sunday, Hama and the teachers at Training Centre Caleb;
- A good end of the agricultural season for SSCS as well as a good start of the preparations to finish the work in 2 of the 3 villages we're involved in and move on to 2 other villages.
- That Caleb will be able to find a good place to start his studies next school year.

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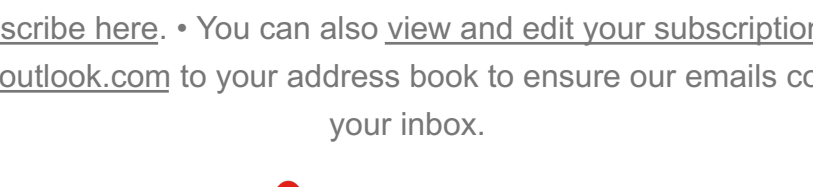
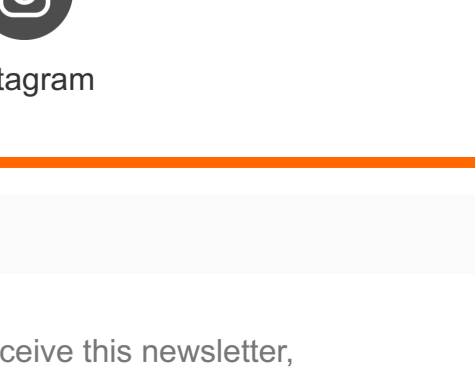
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