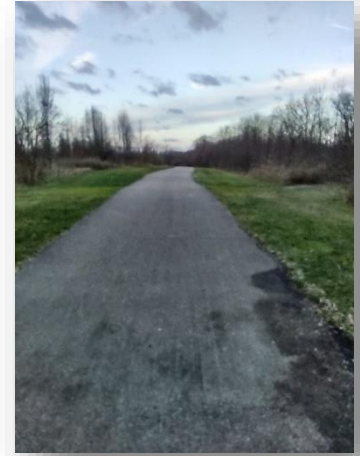


5 January 2022

Happy New Year to all of you! As we look back at 2021, we are thankful for God's faithfulness and for your support, both prayerfully and financially. As we look forward to 2022, it sometimes seems that the road ahead is unknown, unpredictable, and, like this photo, a bit blurry. We are so thankful we have a Shepherd we can trust who will lead us along the roads yet unknown to us, one step and one day at a time.



John's next road to travel is a trip to Niger. We are busy preparing for his trip: buying requested items, buying gifts, packing, preparing courses, figuring out COVID restrictions, etc. John flies out of Cincinnati to New York on January 13, then from New York to Lomé, Togo overnight. January 14 he'll have a short trip from Lomé to Niamey. Please **PRAY** that we will receive *all the packages in time to pack his suitcase; that he will get a negative COVID test and not have any problems scheduling one; that his trip will be uneventful in every way; and that God will bless his time teaching at ESPriT.*

Meanwhile, Nancy will visit her dad in Sebring, Florida for two weeks while John is gone. She will fly down January 19 and return to Ohio on February 2. **PRAY** that they will have a good visit together and also for flights that are uneventful in every way. Nancy will also get to see her brother and his wife and her sister and her husband, all of whom live in Sebring.

### **HOW GOD ANSWERED YOUR PRAYERS IN 2021**

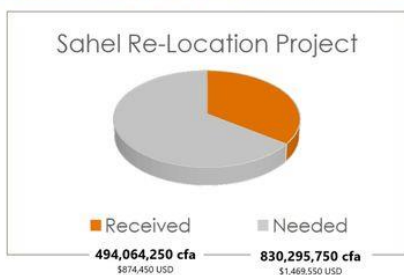
During 2021 we asked you to pray and to consider giving to two important projects. Here is how God has answered your prayers!



## **SAHEL ACADEMY RELOCATION: MOVING JANUARY 2022**

Part 1  
Purchased

Part 2  
Raising Money to Buy



Interested in giving toward the move and property purchase?

Go to [www.sim.org/donate](http://www.sim.org/donate).  
Choose your country, then  
choose  
Sahel Academy Relocation  
Project-Niger



Want more information?

<http://sahelacademy.com/project-relocate/>

In August and September 2020, the Sahel Academy and the Bible school compounds flooded. Sahel Academy has since decided to purchase new property far from the flood plain. We asked you to pray for funding for purchasing a new property that already has buildings on it. Beth Botheras, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher at Sahel Academy writes: “God’s provision has come in the form of creative thinking, funding, and a gracious property owner. SIM has a no-debt policy and as a school we needed to honor that. But raising 2.3 million dollars is no small feat. It takes time. Time is something that the owner of the property we have been hoping to buy had graciously given us a lot of despite the loss of income this meant for her personally.... That’s where the creative thinking came into play. Would it be possible to buy half the property now and rent the other half until we are able to raise the remainder of the funds? This would reduce the amount of rent the school [has been] paying out each month and allow us to be together as one school. ... Just a day or so before we were going to meet with the owner to let her know that we could not move forward, God provided a large gift making it possible for us to purchase one of the buildings. So, we now own half the property” [and are renting-to-buy the other half]. Please **PRAY for funding to be able to purchase the property in its entirety. PRAISE GOD for a patient, generous, and accommodating landowner who has been willing to work with Sahel Academy in creative ways. PRAY for the teachers who moved an entire school over their Christmas break and are starting this next semester pretty tired. PRAY for the repairs that need to be done at the new location and PRAISE GOD for one of the Sahel Academy parents who has put in countless hours making those repairs happen.**

The other project we’ve written about is for ESPriT, the Bible school where John teaches. We are so thankful for the money they’ve been able to raise. The funds they have raised helped with the extra expenses of relocating during the flood year and then moving back to their riverside property; sending a professor to Chad for his master’s degree; and paying off outstanding debts. The students are so happy to be back on their property where they can truly live in community. **PRAISE GOD for his provision over this past year and PRAY that God will continue to provide for the Bible school. PRAY for each of the teachers and students, that God will give them strength and good health in a very busy and demanding academic environment.**

Just this afternoon as I was working with our granddaughter on memorizing Psalm 23 for school, I was reminded of God’s promise that “He makes me lie down in green pastures: he leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul: he leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.” May we follow his paths of righteousness into 2022.

John and Nancy DeValve

