

John and Nancy DeValve

Missionaries with SIM

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SIM

SIM is a century-old catalyst for global mission that brings good news to hard places because there are people living and dying without the gospel. By prayer, SIM's 4,000+ workers from 65 different nations respond to need, proclaim the gospel, and equip the Church in over 70 countries worldwide.

In global ministry with SIM



Recipe for Rolling Six Months into One

7 March 2022

Start by preparing to teach three semester-long courses. This includes creating study guides in French and sending them to a printer in Niger in pdf format before arriving in the country. Mix in long flights, three in each direction between the US and Niger, including a long layover in each direction and one layover on the way out that is so short you barely make it to the next plane and your baggage doesn't. The trip to Niger and then the return trip are preceded by tests for COVID-19 with nail-biting waits for results that come in at the last minute. Add in teaching all three courses within three weeks after spending a week in quarantine upon arrival. Sift in one sermon in a Nigerien church (also in French) and weekly attendance at the church's choir practice. Stir in lots of counseling sessions, meetings, and interactions with ex-pats, Nigériens, and students so that almost every waking moment is full. Mix in exercise – in this case several runs, two of which are 11 km or longer – meals with friends, and shopping. Drop in your birthday celebration during the trip. Heat your own meals with a stove that is not working well and an oven that you can't figure out how to work. And voilà, there you have it. Well done!

In reality, John's trip to Niger from 13 January to 16 February was fruitful and fulfilling in almost every way. While the travel was not so fun with security and COVID requirements making everything complicated and nerve-racking, he was able to accomplish a lot. The students and administration at ESPriT appreciated his teaching and input. He had numerous conversations with old friends and acquaintances about French resources, pedagogical training for professors, theological education at various levels in formal and informal formats, and Christian life and practice. He even got to shop for cloth for Nancy. Needless to say, he arrived home tired and needed some time to recover.

Nancy has officially begun working with the SIM USA Personnel department, helping the new Deputy Director for West and South Africa as she learns her new job and personnel procedures. She is also helping SIM Niger with some tasks and will probably do more for them starting some time in May. More about that later!



Nine of the students in John's Church History (AD 1500-2022) Class. The two women in the class did not get in the picture.

Pray for additional support. Increased costs for medical insurance, housing, and taxes have pushed our support needs upward. At the same time, some of our support has dropped off. During the first five months of the current fiscal year, we are about **\$500 per month short**. Please pray that God will raise up new support or cause the hearts of those currently supporting us to increase their giving. Thanks to all who have faithfully supported us over the years, especially in these perilous times of inflation and upheaval.

See the sidebar on the front page for giving options.

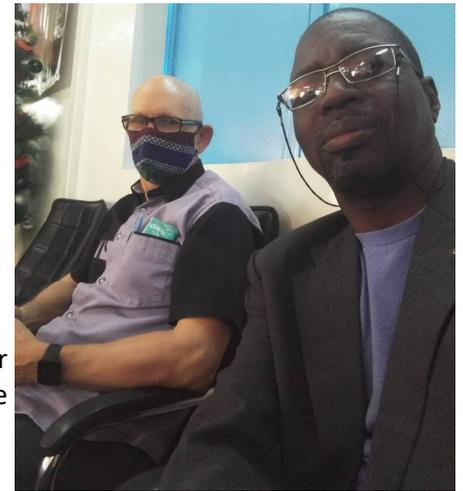
Right: John found this cloth at right in the market. Does the pattern remind you of anything?



Below: John with friends we've known since we lived in Tera.



Right: John with Pastor Jeremy at our church in Niamey on the Sunday he preached.



Praise:

1. Thank God for John's good and safe trip to Niger despite the travel hiccups.
2. John's book, *Worship Music and Culture* is now on amazon.com ([Live link to purchase the book on Amazon](#))! You can get a hard copy there for just \$4.98 or a Kindle copy for \$4.80. Leave a review, too.
3. Praise God that the ESPriT project (Niger School of Theology Project #97190) is now about 70% funded! Pray for the remaining funds to come in. ([Direct link to contribute to the project](#))
4. Praise God for how he is at work in Niger in spite of limitations and obstacles.

Prayer:

1. We are looking to buy a house in the next few months. Any of you who have heard about the current housing market know that it seems like a crazy time to be looking for a house. Pray we will find a good house at a price we can afford in a good location.
2. John will have a biopsy on 10 March to try to rule out the possibility of prostate cancer. Pray for the procedure and that the doctors will not find anything too serious.
3. Pray for ESPriT, the French-language Bible college in Niamey, NIGER where John taught last month. Pray for the director, Tounkara, who carries a heavy load of teaching and leading and is also working on his doctorate. Pray for the students who have lots of work and lack decent library materials.
4. Pray that a book John plans to have published using student compositions from one of his courses will be a blessing.