

John and Nancy DeValve

Missionaries with SIM

Contact Information:

2120 Mississippi Dr

Xenia, OH 45385

John: +1-570-903-8546

Nancy: +1-570-903-8579

john.devalve@sim.org

nancy.devalve@sim.org

Sending Office:

SIM USA

14830 Choate Circle

Charlotte, NC 28273

(704) 588-4300

www.sim.org

Online Giving:

www.simusa.org/get-involved/give/

Sending Church:

Trinity Covenant

302 Hackmatack St.

Manchester, CT 06040

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



Please pray for the suffering church

08 Jun 2022

The heartbreaking call came to John in mid-May. Here is a rough translation: **'Please pray for us. Those bad people have reached our village. They have carried off our animals and want us to pay a ransom 'tax' to get them back. Other than that, we are well, and we wish you well. We greet you and the church in America.'** For security reasons, we are unable to identify the people or places from which this call came, but it is from the believers in the rural district where we worked for 16 years. Extremist activity in the 'Three Borders' area where Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso meet is threatening the lives and livelihoods of both Christians and non-Christians. We are calling on the rest of the church to pray for people in the Sahel, particularly the Christians.

On top of the instability, there is also food insecurity. Last year's harvest was extremely poor, and many people have run out of food and are hungry. They will have nothing from their fields until the next harvest in October and do not have money to buy food. A recent



phone call from another friend in the area informed us that people are growing desperate and have little or nothing to eat. They don't know what to do or how to find food. Please cry out to God to end the senseless violence and instability in this region and to allow people to find enough to eat. Pray for the believers to remain strong and faithful in the midst of loss, uncertainty, and suffering. We hurt for our friends, and we ask you to pray with us for them. We know that this crisis has not really made many headlines as other world events have drowned them out, but please keep this as a special matter for prayer.

We spent the month of May trying to absorb all the shocks and changes occurring in our lives. In addition to John's cancer (see our May letter), moving into a new house (see our April letter), some family crises, the economic and financial pressures we all face, and the news from Africa and other parts of the world, we helped our daughter's family move into their new home and put about 2,000 miles on our car on a ministry trip to Connecticut. Suzanne and Theo and their 3 now live in a beautiful country home on a five-acre lot about 20 miles from us. On our trip we visited with John's mom and supporters in both Connecticut and Pennsylvania. Thank God for safety and providing for our needs. Continue to pray for healing for John and for us to continue to settle into our new home. Keep praying for our support needs and for additional supporters to help with our financial needs.

Please continue to **pray** for our support needs. We need another \$600 per month to meet our obligations. If anyone is interested in helping us with monthly, quarterly, or annual contributions, please let us know. You can contact SIM at the address or phone number on the front page and can set up a recurring payment if you so desire.

Another turn of events in May: Nancy has taken over the job she left behind in Niger. Well, she can't do all of it, but she is doing a lot of the correspondence, policy work, data entry, and interaction with people in country via ZOOM, Whatsapp, and email. The person who took over from her when we left Niger in March 2021 left for a year of home assignment the United States on 01 June. SIM Niger could not find a replacement for her, so Nancy has stepped in to handle as much of the load as possible remotely. She has already dealt with a number of delicate situations and is ramping up her work to about 30 hours per week. We expect this will be a one-year commitment until the person on home assignment returns to Niger. **Pray** for Nancy as there are a lot of knotty problems to deal with. **Pray** for rest and strength to keep up with the job. **Pray** for Crystal in Niger is keeping up with the tasks on the ground that can't be done from afar. **Praise** God that there are others who will be able to help her out with those tasks. **Pray** that we will all work

as a unified team in spite of the distance between us and **Praise** God that COVID has at least made us comfortable with working remotely.



Left: We actually miss the heat of Niger (though it was often TOO hot there!) so we are loving the summer here in southwestern Ohio! Why yes, we are

the weird people in the neighborhood with our windows open and the AC off. Bike riding is a new fun evening activity that we enjoy.



Left: Suzanne and Theo, Tera, Kiah, and Ezra at their new house in the country

Right: Levi and Everett are ready for Kindergarten. I'm sure Evelyn thinks she is, too!

