



HOSANNA INSTITUTE OF THE SAHEL

February 2015

“ For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.”

1. Cor. 12:12

Dear friends and partners,

Although through all of church history there has been a lot of discord and division, in times of persecution and difficulties we experience the importance of coming together and working as **one**. Together with you, Hosanna has the privilege to assist the church in Niger that is in much need of comfort and practical help. **The recent crisis is affecting the whole church in Niger.**

Fire and vandalism towards Christian properties



One of the churches in Niamey—before and after attacks

Two weeks ago, after the Friday Muslim prayer, we suddenly heard of violence and attacks of churches and of Christian homes and businesses in the east of the country. Saturday, to everybody's surprise, the same violence swept over to Niamey and altogether over 70 churches and several pastors' homes were destroyed.



Since this happened there has been no more violence, but especially Christians are called to be vigilant and to be in prayer for this country.

Very few churches were spared; some of them are the Hosanna centers.

The last two Sundays we were able to come together and worship as usual with all the different tribes. The congregation was encouraged to pray for all the affected churches and people. The message was about practicing love and forgiveness, and everybody was challenged to refuse to hate. In times like these, we realize how important our testimonies and reactions are.

The government provided Military support to all the churches during this time for safety.

Practical help



As a contribution Hosanna offered the conference room as a meeting place for the crises management team consisting of eighteen (18) people from different churches and professional backgrounds, such as lawyers, architects, doctors, pastors, etc. This team is meeting regularly and is coming up with strategies and decisions how to best move forward in this situation which has never occurred in Niger before.

Foundation for the new radio/TV tower



The Ghana team came to Niamey to start the foundation for the new radio and TV tower. Ben Sustar, an engineer from the Southern Baptist Mission, is supervising the work. Just as they were about to pour the cement, the crises started and the work was interrupted. The Ghana team is planning to come back next week to continue the work.

Solar system installation



We are thankful the container with the solar batteries and panels for the Kollo Clinic and the Guest House arrived on time. Gunther was able to come and prepare for the German team arriving beginning of March to set up the whole installation in Kollo. At this time Gunther and a few local workers are placing batteries in the storage room in the Guest House.

Agricultural update



During this past month the agricultural technicians were able to distribute several goats to widows and mothers with malnourished babies. This is in very remote villages. We would like to thank Pastor Liviu from Romania for this contribution.

Kollo clinic



Representatives from the WFP– World Food Program visited and evaluated the clinic and the nineteen health centers in the region that are supervised by the clinic in Kollo. Every week five nurses from the clinic go to these centers and do awareness training and different treatments as: de-worming, vaccinations and distribution of vitamin and iron supplements. At the same time, food is prepared in the centers and mothers are taught how to use and cook nourishing food available in the village. Twenty additional health workers were taught to be trainers for hygiene practices, vaccinations and better nutrition habits in different villages. As of today 1000 pregnant malnourished women and 4000 malnourished children are in the nutrition program at the clinic and are followed up weekly.

Rice distribution



Just before Christmas the container with the well drilling supplies and the rice boxes arrived. Thanks to Emmanuel Baptist church in Oklahoma 9000 rice meals were packed. All of the Hosanna centers in and outside of Niamey, three orphanages and remote schools that cook meals for their students, benefitted from this distribution.

Praise

- Jonas and Gabi and their two children arrived from Germany in the beginning of January for long-term mission stint. Everything worked out with a place to stay. At this time they are settled and learning French. Jonas will help with the discipleship program in Hosanna as a teacher.
- For the Lords protection during the crisis



Prayer

- As the crisis in Niger affected many believers, please continue to pray for those who have lost homes, and for the churches that were destroyed.
- For the leadership of this country and for the Christian leaders to make good decisions in this critical situation
- That the Gospel would spread throughout Niger, including to those who attacked Christians
- For continued peace and God inspired strategies during the efforts to rebuild the churches
- For true humility and meekness to work together in unity for this common cause in Niger



We are very encouraged to know that we all are part of one body.

Especially during these difficult times we realize it is only the Lord we can rely on.

Thank you everybody for your prayer and support.

In Christ,

The Hosanna team in Niger

*“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.,,
Ps.46:1*

For more information: www.hosannasahel.org or www.his-deutschland.de