

Tight Times

Grace and Emmanuel began three weeks before I came back from Korea. Moustapha and André who were responsible for managing the school were convinced that we had to tighten our spending. To feed 140 students at Grace and 40 boys at Emmanuel, plus 20 some teachers everyday is not small pocket money. They decided to stop the morning snack, and told the cooks to reduce the food. Well, Moustapha had already left 10 days before my arrival, and André I got to see just for an hour at the airport as I came out from the baggage claim and he was just about to enter check in to return to his country. So, as soon as the students saw my face, the first thing they were asking was for more food. In the culture where being satiated is the symbol of a well-being and happiness, not being full is a legitimate reason to be sad.

Prices have been going up like crazy here, and things are not easy to find due to the continued problem of insecurity at the borders. Moustapha wrote in his reasoning that we should decrease the number of rice meals at school, pointing out to me that the average Nigerien does not have rice so often. However, to our students who were already used to eating at Grace, it's difficult for them. Some even asked me to take away meat and instead give them more rice to feel more full. These were very difficult things for me to hear. My heart ached, and my stomach was in knots as I heard these pleas. We discussed this long and hard. As I write this, we are trying several different things this week — different snack items such as desert dates, peanuts, etc, and different menus for breakfast, lunch and dinner, etc. We are thankful that our chickens began laying eggs! Even if all 132 chickens lay eggs on the same day, consumers here still outnumber them. Nonetheless it helps. We also began to plant more moringa plants in every space we could find at school.



^ Planting more moringa plants



The very first six Two weeks later 53 eggs were collected!

"Jesus replied, 'What is impossible with man is possible with God.'"

<Luke 18:27>

A Long Blackout

The first week I was back, we had a blackout caused by the shortage on a cable entering the worker's room. The culprit? The mice! Until I came to Niger I never heard of mice that eat cables and termites that eat clothes! Like people here, I guess all things here are hungry, and are willing to eat anything to satiate their tummy, sigh. In any case, the shortage was more serious than we had first thought. It burned many light bulbs in the classrooms, an A/C in the battery room, two fridges in the kitchen, and the fans in the chapel all stopped working. Just to buy new fans and the lights cost more than \$2,000! Thanks to one of our science teachers who volunteered to change all the lights and the fans. He teaches electricity to our students as Saturday learning, and the Emmanuel students that were in his electricity class were so excited to put their knowledge into practice and help out. After a long 3 weeks of sweating in the dark classrooms, we are so thankful to have the fans and the lights back!



Classroom construction waits for someone with a vision to come to help

We need to build classrooms for Emmanuel and Maranatha. We also need to have a dorm for Maranatha and a chapel for Emmanuel so that they can have their own kitchen and cook rather than transporting the three meals from Grace back and forth. We were hoping for a construction team for January 2026, but unfortunately that fell through. Please pray with us for a construction team who would work for His glory!

Prayer Requests:

- Please pray that God would send us the workers to our Admin team.
- Wisdom and means to feed the students well that are under our care
- Please pray for the permit for Maranatha clinic to come through soon.
- Please pray for Dr. Yoon coming from Korea this Dec., the team of doctors coming from the States in Jan. 2026 as well as the Global Care team from Korea.
- Please pray for the permits for Emmanuel and Maranatha also
- For security and peace for Niger that the military force will be able to lead the country to a democratic election soon

Praises:

- For all the great Christian teachers and workers that God sent to this school!
- How we were able to bring in French Bibles (by bus then boat and bus again) for half the cost from Cote d'Ivoire.
- So thankful for those who are preparing a container for us with the hospital beds, building materials, etc.
- Amazing connections (that only God can create) that are happening around us to help Niger and our students!
- We are grateful for all the new sponsors for our new students and new projects! We still have 20 girls and 40 boys that wait for the sponsors.