

Profile in Mission: Jeremy and Susan Beebout



Ministry -Medicine, Agriculture, and Volunteer Coordination

Location-Niger

Partner-Evangelical Church of the Republic of Niger

What Need Is God Showing Us?

A vast, arid state on the edge of the Sahara desert, Niger is rated by the United Nations as one of the poorest countries in the world. Niger also has one of the lowest literacy rates, because only one-third of primary-school-age children receive an education. Medical and agricultural development needs in Niger are extreme. The country's health system is rudimentary, resulting in widespread disease, and 40 percent of Niger's citizens have agriculturally based incomes.

What Is God Telling Us to Do?

The Evangelical Church of the Republic of Niger (EERN) wants to build ministry programs operated by Nigerien Christians that will share Christ's love with the people of Niger by addressing their health and agricultural needs. As a means of sharing the gospel and strengthening the church, the RCA will assist the EERN in advancing Christian health ministry in Niger and in conducting regionally based agricultural ministries through its Department of Community Development.



In the village of Aguié, local health officials have invited the Christian community to open a clinic. The EERN has asked their Health Ministry Committee to study the possibility of opening a clinic in this building in Aguié, which belongs to the church.

How Are We Doing What God Is Asking?

Jeremy Beebout, who has a degree in agronomy, will coordinate and encourage EERN regional bodies in their agricultural development efforts. Susan Beebout, a medical doctor, will be based in Niger's capital, where she will work with the church in developing its health ministries. "We will view our work as successful if we are able to develop strong friendships and partnerships with Nigerien Christians and enable them to move forward in community development and ministry to their people," say the Beebouts.

Who Is Our Partner?

The Evangelical Church of the Republic of Niger (L'Eglise Evangélique de la République du Niger) emerged out of mission work that began in Niger in 1924. The church in Niger is small and faces tremendous pressure from Islam. Nevertheless, national believers have a growing vision for church planting and evangelism. Challenges include a shortage of pastors, of educated Christian women, and of mature, well-trained leaders.

Up Close and Personal

Susan and Jeremy both grew up in small, rural churches. Both were active in church and campus ministry during their undergraduate years at Iowa State University, and their faith blossomed during this time. Susan studied abroad in Slovakia in 1996. Jeremy says his first overseas experience, aboard a hospital ship posted in Benin, West Africa, was life-changing and affirmed his calling to do mission work. "I took other trips to Honduras, and together with Susan to Kenya and Malawi, which further shaped my interest and desire for mission," he says. Susan adds, "Our short-term trips to Africa increased my concern for ill people in the developing world and my desire to reach out." The Beebouts enjoy spending time with their daughter, Lydia Ruth, and fishing and biking.