

Niger

Republic of Niger/République du Niger

G. Randy Adams, Area Coordinator/President
Eglise Pentecôtiste Unie Internationale du Niger

Population: 14,400,000

Area: 489,189 mi.

Capital: Niamey

Languages: French (official), Hausa, Djerma

Religions: Islam, 80%; remainder indigenous beliefs and Christian

A vast, arid state on the edge of the Sahara desert, the Republic of Niger has suffered austere military rule for most of the years since its independence from France in 1960 and is rated by the United Nations as one of the world's poorest nations. The nation is completely surrounded by Mali, Algeria, Libya, Chad, Nigeria, Benin, and Burkina Faso. The Niger River flows through the nation's southwest, forming the only fertile area. Only 3% of the land is arable. The country's natural resources include uranium, coal, iron ore, phosphates, gold, tin, and petroleum.

In December 1999, missionaries Craig Sully and Randy Adams drove to Niamey, the capital of Niger. They spent almost a week there and accomplished two important things.

First, they taught a Bible study on the oneness of God and baptism in Jesus' name to two Trinitarian pastors and their wives. They had already been influenced by a young man converted in the Ivory Coast who had moved home to Niger. Following the Bible study, the four were baptized in the Niger River in Jesus' name. On the following Sunday morning, Adams and Sully conducted the first "Apostolic" worship service—to their knowledge—under a tree in a public sports area.

Second, they met with the government official in charge of religious activity in Niger. He assured them that no law in Niger would prevent the church from being established in their nation. In 2000, the documents were filed by missionary Ed Allard to register the UPCI in Niger. It was a lengthy and delicate process, but late in 2002, the registration was granted.

Since then, there have been many miraculous conversions and miracles of healing and deliverance in the church. With one church and several preaching points, the attendance has grown to a solid 80 in spite of the resistance from the predominately Muslim population. Presently there are two students from Niger attending Bible school in Togo. Plans are for these two men to open new works somewhere in the nation.

Africa Region • **57**

Louis (8/3) A: 6/21

Rosemary (11/5)