



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

The Philpot family of Williams Avenue spend much of their time working as Christian missionaries in Africa.

## Africa calls to missionaries

By BRAD REAUME  
The Champion

Pep and Jane Philpot say they live in two different worlds.

Currently the Williams Avenue family of five is living a typical Canadian existence working, going to school, paying bills and, oh, preparing to move to Africa.

Africa is their other life.

They spent five years, from 1989 until the autumn of 1994, as missionaries in Niger, a former French colony in west central Africa. Niger has been tagged by the United Nations as the poorest country on Earth. The Philpots and their children, five-year-old Bethany,

three-year-old Jacob and baby David return to Niger this month.

Presbyterians, the Philpots work through the non-denominational Society of International Ministries (SIM), which organizes missionary work in 29 countries. Jane Philpot is a medical doctor in family practice while Mr. Philpot has a master's degree in hospital administration and a master's in theology.

Together they worked with half a dozen doctors in the town of Galmi, where there is a small hospital, operated by SIM for about 40 years. It is one of only 6-7 hospitals in a country of 8 million people. However, when they return in April it will be to another facility.

• see PHILPOT on page 9

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