

# Thanksgiving, 2009

Dear Praying Friends and Faithful Supporters,

As we approach this Thanksgiving Season, isn't it wonderful to know that we always are in God's caring and unchanging hands? As things happen in our lives, we need to remind ourselves that God **IS ALWAYS** in control, even when we don't understand. God's Word is true, and His promises assured! That is why we can truly give thanks to our Lord in all things and lean on Him!

I am thankful to Him for the opportunity He has given me to be back in the States right now for several months, in order to visit supporting churches and also for this time of spiritual refreshment in my life. How refreshing it is for my soul!

Here are other areas which fill my heart with gratefulness unto the Lord. . .

## . . . CHURCH MINISTRY:

I thank the Lord for the fellowship and help we have been, and are, getting from our sister Church in Toulon, France, who has been sending men to our church every Sunday to preach the Word. One of their Pastors, *Luciano BRANCO*, also comes every week to teach our Tuesday evening Bible studies. He has been a real encouragement to our church as it was struggling and needed this extra help during the one year absence of *John & Joy GRIBBIN*, our co-workers, while they were in the States. **Please continue to pray** for the church people, that they might grow in the Word.

Among others, **please pray** for the salvation of *Ghyslaine*, that the Lord might break down the barriers of anger and bitterness that keep her from God's peace and grace. We can praise the Lord that she is coming quite regularly to the church.

## . . . MINISTRY AMONG THE MILITARY:

I thank God for the opportunities He gives us to have contact with different military families through our personal contacts, through special activities, through English classes, and other means. I praise the Lord for the ministry He is allowing us to have at the Sainte Anne



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Military Hospital, with free access and open doors to visit people in their rooms, and also for the Bible studies we have there every other Tuesday. Another outreach there is through the giving out of Gideon New Testament & Psalms (an average of 50 per month). Pray that the Word that is sown might bring forth eternal fruit unto salvation.

Another subject of praise and thanksgiving is concerning *Isabelle*, a young intern in Pharmacy at the hospital, whom I have been discipling. She is growing in the Lord and has a strong desire to follow God's direction. She was just baptized on November 1st.

### ... MINISTRY AMONG THE YOUNG PEOPLE

Our hearts are also full of thanksgiving concerning the opportunity our team has to share the Gospel with 20 to 50 young people who come to the Center every day. These are either students from the Hairdresser's school across the street from us, or other young adults from the neighborhood. It is not easy to work with them, but they need the Lord and we count it a privilege to be able to share the Good News with them.

Pray for the team in France as they get ready to prepare an "Open House" in December for them, thus having an added opportunity to give each one of them portions of the Word with a Bible tract.

### ... FAMILY

I give thanks to the Lord for the Godly influence and example my parents gave me and for the fact they taught me His Word. It has also been an encouragement for me to live in France, close to one of my sisters and all of her family, especially since my mother graduated to Glory almost two years ago.

I also praise the Lord for the testimony of *Ruth STAUFFER*, my cousin's wife who went Home to be with the Lord on October 25th. Despite sickness, and many difficulties, she was a true witness for the Lord, always rejoicing in Him and praising God. Pray for the many lives she touched, that they would surrender to the Lord: some for salvation and others for commitment to God. Pray also for the family during this time of adjustment.

### ... OTHER PRAISE SUBJECTS

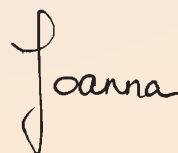
- The Brignoles church, started by my parents and that I have been helping some, was able to buy a store-front building to meet in, and the church is growing!
- The "choir work-shop" ministry at the retirement home, "La Louisiane," continues with great opportunity to share the Gospel with the elderly there. We teach them different hymns and Christian choruses and explain the meaning & message of each song. Pray that several might come to Jesus before it is too late!
- Our ladies' yearly Conference has touched the lives of many women. The theme this year was "*A quiet soul in a troubled world.*" How wonderful that truth is as we lean on the Lord and His Word!

### ... LAST, BUT NOT LEAST

My heart continues to be full of **THANKSGIVING** unto God for sending His Son into the world, so that the world (and each individual) through Him might be saved. As we also near this Christmas Season, let us worship and adore Him. As the Apostle Paul says, let us give thanks unto God for His unspeakable gift (II Corinthians 9:15).

Again, thank you so much for your faithful prayers, encouragement and financial support. May God sustain & encourage you as you stand true to the Faith and preach the Word!

In God's caring arms,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joanna". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned at the bottom center of the page, below the typed name "Joanna".