



Gribbin's Grapevine

March 2010

Dear Praying Friends/Supporters,

Before writing this letter, I felt led to pray for missionaries working in Nigeria where recently over 100 Christians were assassinated by a religious group that is opposed to Christians. On their web site, I came across a statement made by an African Christian elder: I am afraid of dynamic stagnation, where a man is moving, working and doing so much and yet he is not advancing in God's call. To be honest, I have the same fear which is why we're praying about His leading in a new ministry to Muslim people. This elder said one other thing: I have seen people start well and [then] continue by just wandering in the wilderness. At times we feel like that, wandering but not accomplishing the work He has called us to do.



Joy and John

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We ask you to pray with us that we wouldn't just be working hard, but truly moving in the direction He wants us to go, both in the ministry to the French military and/or to the Muslims, both groups needing the Gospel. He has kept us here for 30 years, but time is not an indication of effectiveness. Thank you for praying with us to be working and walking with Him who brings the increase (1 Cor 3:7).

TRAINING LEADERS AND WORKERS

Pictured here is a group of men and women in our region who are serious about being effective and fruitful in their local churches. A training program was begun this last January called "FLAM" (a play on the word "flame"). They're not pastors, but leaders and workers in their churches who realize the importance of being more fully instructed and better trained to minister more effectively. FLAM was developed by a French pastor, *Didier Silberstein*. I, along with another American missionary-pastor, are sharing with Didier the teaching/training load. The courses now being taught are the Doctrine of God, Romans, and Biblical Counseling. The training and teaching responds to the great need in French churches for better qualified leadership and teachers, especially where churches don't have their own pastor.



PRODIGALS (?) RETURNING

Well, maybe not like the prodigal son, but in answer to prayer, it is a joy to see some folks "who departed" a bit like Mark in Acts 15:37, returning to church. *Eric*, former French Military, came to Christ in 2001, but left the church about three years ago. He missed the teaching of the Word.

Another is *Marie-Joe*, divorced, and then failing in another relationship. She has been coming regularly to Sunday morning services for about two months now, along with her 12 year old son for whom she is burdened to see come to Christ.

PRAYER & PRAISE

1. **Urgent need!** We sent an urgent prayer appeal a few weeks ago, but just today things appear to be much worse. Joy had the privilege of seeing a very sick lady, 77, make a profession of faith last December, but today she may be admitted to the hospital. Gangrene seems to be setting in, her kidneys are failing, her heart was already weak, and of course the circulation in her legs is poor. Her husband, 70, may be at the outset of Alzheimer's and drinks excessively. Joy has given much time to helping this family since their second daughter doesn't give them the help they need. Their oldest daughter is a Christian and member of our church, but recently her own severe health issues prevented her from helping her family. Be much in prayer for the salvation of this family and their critical health needs.
2. Recently we have noticed a **decline in our support** and we realize economics is an international problem today; however, because of the weakness of the dollar against the euro, our financial deficit is \$1,000.00. Please pray with us about this urgent need.
3. **Church growth:** PRAISE! Though a full church (around 35) two weeks ago was exceptional, one by one our little church seems to be growing again. KEEP PRAYING!
4. **Hungry souls:** the Military Christian Center has a daily contact at noon with students from the hair stylist school, and three or four of them have shown more or less serious interest in the Gospel. At the same time, the enemy has been working to create disorder to turn their thoughts away from the Word. One girl is reading the Bible daily so pray she comes to Christ soon.

It will be Spring by the time you read this, another reminder of New Life and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. What a privilege we have to serve the Risen Savior with you in this land which is thought to be 30% atheist. Only the Word of Truth can bring light to so many darkened souls. **Help us get the Truth of the Gospel to them.**

Because of Calvary,



John & Joy

Toulon, France