

Prayer in the Center

News from the Morris family

Jan. 2009

During the recent school vacation Richard and the boys went out for a bike trip. Taking advantage of a good bike path and sunshine, they heading out through the forest for Chambord castle. At first all went well; but as they pedaled along, the boys started feeling tired. The bike path isn't always on flat ground the castle is almost 6 miles from Bracieux. With lots of encouraging words and at times a helping hand from Dad, Timothy made all the way back home. Once home, he let out a joyful "I did it!"



Since last December, "encouraging words and helping hands" describes well what our family has received from fellow believers and friends. The many cards and e-mails in response to our situation (support, finances...) have been a real source of encouragement. Even more encouragement came from the many answers to prayer we've seen, showing once again that nothing is impossible with our God! We joyfully agreed with the psalmist who wrote, *For you make me glad by your deeds, O Lord; I sing for joy at the works of your hands* (Ps. 92:4). All these answers to our needs and to prayer lead us to cry out with joy, "Lord, you did it!"



Praise for support



In our last letter we explained the need for additional support. Here's where things stand today. Last January, due to the number of gifts coming in, SIM France decided to push back the decision concerning our situation until April. In February, the Blois church voted to maintain their support for another year (though with a slight reduction). We were both touched and encouraged by this expression of their solidarity with our ministry.

Therefore, it's with great joy that we say today that the goal within reach. According to our estimation, and if the number of occasional gifts continues, we only need to find **\$ 100** in new monthly support. We praise God for those who have started giving monthly or even occasionally. We praise God as well for all our supporters who, even when their future is uncertain, have maintained their support.

As far as the final decision, there are two possibilities. One, we become fully supported and make no changes. Or two, not being fully supported, we take a reduction in salary. The worse-case scenario, the one where Valérie would go off support and start working at least part-time, is for the moment no longer an option. We praise God for His faithfulness toward us and we pray He bless both our ministry and those who support us.



Praise for growth

Valérie celebrated her 40th birthday in January. Having accepted Jesus just a few weeks after her 20th birthday, she can see all the changes the Lord has made in her life since then. What a difference between a peaceful 40th birthday celebration and her 20th where she knew she was in the depths of darkness! Once again our hearts are filled with praise, “Thank you Lord for what you’ve done!” How good it is to ever remember his faithfulness and blessings.

Praise for changed lives

Very rarely in our prayer letter do we tell stories about those we counsel. Mainly it’s out of a concern for their privacy. However, this past winter the Lord intervened in the lives of several believers in a marvelous, or miraculous, way. And that we definitely want to tell you about! Each time the key to resolving the problem was so unexpected that it was evident that it was the Lord’s doing. Often our heart’s cry was “Praise you Lord! How wonderful it is to see you at work!”

Late one Sunday evening, we received a phone call from a Christian friend in tears. Something during that morning’s worship service dredged up some painful memories. One hour later, she agreed to spend a special time in prayer, asking the Lord to reveal the cause of her pain (past and present). The next day, we read with great joy her e-mail telling us how during night God took away a burden she’d carried for over 20 years!

Another believer we’ve been helping for over two years found healing and a new approach to an extremely difficult family problem. This time there was no direct divine intervention; just one sentence in a conversation that revealed an unbiblical expectation and uncovered the cause of the problem. Now it’s time to work on changing those attitudes and expectations that were behind the problem.

We rejoice in your participation in our ministry through your gifts and prayers, for they enable us to help God’s children find a new path or healing. We can even say, “Thanks to you, we could do it!”

A few weeks ago we started helping Genevieve, a Christian who lives in the area. Her family is full of occult gifts – psychic fortune-telling, levitation of tables, telepathy, power to heal through simply holding hands, and more...). We’re not surprised that she and her eldest daughter have experienced heavy spiritual attack ever since coming to Christ. Please join with us in prayer that they might find freedom and that soon we all may say, “Thank you Lord. You did it!”

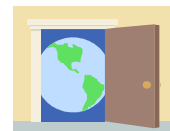
Praise for salvation

For the past 3 years Cédric regularly attended services in Blois. Richard (as well as Michael our co-worker) had several discussions with him about Christ and faith. Cédric also attended several InterVarsity meetings. Over time we noticed he was drawing closer to the Lord. Just last Sunday we learned that he has given his life to Christ. Once again, “Thank you Lord!”

Praise for an open door

SIM France is a partner mission of the A.E.E.I., a Union of 29 Evangelical churches throughout France. Through this partnership we are about to become “associate missionaries” of the A.E.E.I. On March 20-22nd Richard will attend their national convention where he will make a short presentation of our ministry.

Opening a new door does not mean closing another one. Becoming associates will not change our status with SIM, nor with France-Mission. All we’re doing is taking advantage of an opportunity to expand our field of ministry. Being approved associates will allow us to freely minister within these churches according to their needs. We rejoice in this open door and we’re excited about the opportunity to serve a greater number of churches.



Praise for health

Last January Richard noticed that his eyebrows and eyelashes were growing back, then his hair too. Just as we don’t know why it all fell out, we don’t know why it’s all coming back! While he doesn’t yet have a full head of hair, we rejoice in this change in his health. However, the skin problems (cuts that get infected, sores that don’t heal...) continue. On March 17th Richard will see a Professor of dermatology at a hospital in nearby Tours. We pray that this specialist will find the cause of these problems as well as a treatment.

The kids’ corner

Jonathan, our tennis man, is on forced rest for the next few months. This winter he started complaining about frequent pain in one of his heels. X-rays revealed a growth complication that requires total rest.

The only sports allowed are biking and swimming. Unfortunately, that doesn’t allow him to use up his overly abundant quantity of energy. It’s not the easiest of times, but at least it’s not permanent.

The beginning of the school year was hard on Marie-Anne as she was no longer in the same class as her friends. It took several months for her to make some new friends.

Since February things are going much better for her. We are both happy for her and thankful for this answer to prayer.



Timothy was also required to give up sports for a while. His foot got stuck under a door and because of that he almost lost the toenail on the big toe.

The day he could go back to soccer practices and matches was a great day. And for his coach too, who was very happy to recuperate his goalkeeper!

Prayer and praise...

- Praise God for the answered prayer for our support and for the gifts received.
- Praise for the transforming work the Lord is doing in the lives of believers we counsel.
- Pray for Genevieve and her daughter; may they find total freedom from all attacks and negative spiritual influences and powers.
- Pray that Jonathan's heel heal quickly and for Richard's appointment with the specialist in Tours.
- Keep praying for Valérie and the contact with her non-Christian friends.
- Pray for the upcoming sermons and week-ends; may there be abundant fruit.

May our Lord and Savior bless you abundantly

Richard & Valérie

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Agenda

March

01 : Sermon, Blois

14-15 : Spiritual care
discipleship counseling training,
Firminy

17 : Doctor's appointment in
Tours

20-22 : A.E.E.I.'s national
congress

April

12 : Sermon, Blois

25-26 : Conference, "The Holy
Spirit and us?", Paris

May

03 : Sermon, Blois

09-10 : France-Mission national
congress

16-17 : Conference, "The
occult", Montreuil-Bellay

21 : FM Center's annual
gathering, Romorantin