

A Spring report from the Stetsons in France



For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass.
The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:
But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which
by the gospel is preached unto you. 1 Peter 1:24, 25

Somain, France, May 13, 2010

Dear friends in Christ,

I'm writing this overdue prayer letter with the regret that I'm not always keeping up with you who are very important people in our lives. You have

blessed us, and we're thankful. Here in Somain it has been an afternoon of "Carnaval," a procession of bands and people dressed up in costumes. It was the "glory of man," and with its music and confetti will quickly pass away. Glenda and I went to the afternoon Bible study, and then tried again to deliver a Bible to a lady who asked to receive it. Let me ask prayer for upcoming meetings on May 22 and 23 on the subject of Spiritual Growth,

We have tried several means of outreach these past months which have served either to bring back someone, to reveal a person desirous to have a Bible, or to be the occasion of a new person attending church. I'm going to share here the best news, that of the salvation of a faithful lady's husband.

It was during the time of Glenda's Ladies' Meeting of Thursday, April 29 that I made an appointment to visit Albert Barbieux, 86 years old, suffering from kidney problems. He received me and hurried to show me his garden. He is unstable on his feet now and has seldom attended church with his wife Edith, who converted from Catholicism to a real relationship with Jesus Christ.

I flipped through the village news with Albert, and then by way of our portable computer showed him a few family pictures and the church Edith attends. Then, I got out a good, full-page Gospel tract telling of "How a thief found Paradise," (in French). The image of three crosses allowed me to speak of Christ, and of the thief. While others say that Albert cannot follow a conversation, I found that in a quiet room he could follow fairly well. Still, with the most important message ever to share, I opened a text document and exchanged a conversation in 28-point type--four pages. Albert had heard the Gospel before, and I believed as I "talked" with him that he was ready. When I typed, "What is your choice?, Yes? No? Later?," he pointed to "Yes."

I wasn't sure that Albert would pray out loud, and seeing that I had spoken (written) of sin and sinfulness, and of repentance and pardon, I wrote a simple prayer that I asked if Albert would like to make his own. "Yes," was his reply, and he read the prayer and agreed that it was his own. I left him at the end of the fourth page of our conversation with John 1:12 which says that God gave to them who receive the Word, power to become children of God. That was the end of my letter to Albert, and I believe the beginning of his eternal life! His wife Edith was elated to learn the news, as was our French pastor and the whole church.

Some current Prayer requests in connection with these past months and future activities:

- 1) For salvation of teenagers (and+) who came to our youth meetings: Frank and Cindy, Dorothee, Nicolas
- 2) That those who have or will receive a Bible will read and receive its message. There are 3 ladies and a man.
- 3) For our Baptist Alliance (pastors & churches): our Convention, France discovery trip, the 5 students in our school
- 4) For unsaved spouses and newcomers through activities like a Couples' dinner: Alain & Marie, Fred, and Zacharie

We request prayer also for these friends: Samuel Briard with a large tuberculosis-like growth, Jean-Jacques and Denis with cancer, and Marie-Renee from our former ministry with health needs. Our son-in-law, Pascal (wife Rebecca), has graduated from Southern Seminary and is preparing for missionary ministry. Rob, Caira, and boys are busy receiving groups to the Word Of Life Youth and Retreat Center. Carrie is excited to finish a fourth year of teaching in China and to be coming both to the USA and to France this summer.

I continue to be concerned for several church works here that desire to move forward toward having their own building, but are so small. If you would like to know about the France Advancement Fund, please write to me.

May God bless you and yours. Paul and Glenda Stetson

Gifts may be sent to: **GFMA, PO Box 3326, Chattanooga, TN 37404**. Reach us by email: paulstetson@club-internet.fr