



"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee because he trusteth in thee."

Isaiah 26:3

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talking with Sarah in the Center
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Dear Praying Friends and Faithful Supporters,

*"Give thanks in all circumstances,
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*
I Thessalonians 5 :18

As we are already nearing Thanksgiving, the Lord keeps reminding me of my need to always be thankful to Him! I can, and must do so, because He is Sovereign, Wise and Good. He loves me; He is trustworthy and deserves all the honor and glory. It is easy for me to give thanks when things are easy. But, even when my situations are difficult, I am to do so. I must humble myself before the Throne of Grace and realize that God knows best; He is faithful and will bring honor and glory to His name (Romans 8:28-29).

It seems to me the Lord has needed to work in my life in that respect during the last two months as He has allowed several "trials" in my life. Here are three of them, among others:

At 4 a.m. on September 8th, we had a sudden and violent wind storm, so strong that it forced and blew open the shutters of my bedroom. My window being open, this provoked a sudden and overpowering draft. Because of the force of the wind, I qualified it as a mini-tornado. The kitchen door to the hallway violently banged shut, making the thick glass pane in it to literally explode. In fact, the whole door exploded. Glass was found all around the apartment. (I am still finding pieces here and there!) Pieces of glass were also stuck in the wall across from the kitchen. I had awakened a couple of minutes before this happened, because of the sudden noise the wind was making, and was in the process of getting up to shut different windows. **I thank the Lord** for His protection because, had I been in the hallway, I would have been severely injured because of the glass. Because of all the damage (the awning also was damaged and has to be replaced), I had to file an insurance claim,

and have estimate prices done for the repairs (about 900 Euros/\$1270). The expert won't be coming until Nov. 19th! If the repairs are approved, I will have to pay the deductible part (120 Euros/ \$170), and will have to advance the cost of the repairs before getting refunded by insurance... and there is no telling how long that will take! However, even in this, **I give thanks to the Lord**, for He knows the situation and will work it out for His glory!

On september 17th, when I went to use my laptop, the screen was black and I couldn't get it to work. I had it checked and found out the cost to repair it. The cost is way more than the value of the computer. So I just had them put the laptop back together but keep the harddrive out so I can use it as an external drive and still have all my documents, files and programs. This was a real blow to me as I use my laptop all the time and don't have the money to buy another one. However, **I give thanks to the Lord**, because I can still use a real old laptop even though it has a broken hinge (costs too much to repair it) and can "die" at any time. But for now, it still works. I pray that it will hold out until the Lord provides the funds to get a new one. Thank you for your prayers.

When I received the amount of my support for the whole month of September, it was way lower than the last few months, which were already low. My prayer was: 'Lord! How am I going to make it? Humanly, it is impossible! Lord, I have to pay my bills and honor you! Please provide in your own way!' I started looking for ways to reduce some bills. In the process, I made two appointments. One with the supervisor of my bank, *Mrs Tagliavini Sandra*, to check out different options the bank has (price & coverage of car insurance...). **I thank the Lord** that, in the process, she asked me several questions which led to a very positive and lengthy opportunity to witness to her. I will be seeing her again soon. Please pray for her. The second appoint-

ment was made with *Mr. Hamon* concerning my supplemental health insurance. This too led to a great witness opportunity and a cheaper and better coverage plan. **I praise and thank the Lord** for these two opportunities which I probably would not have had otherwise, and also for what God will continue to do to provide financially for my support. However, please be much in prayer concerning this urgent need.

Ministry opportunities are numerous with both saved and unsaved people. Here are just a few:

The ministry at the military hospital continues. Pray for the regular contacts I have with *Thérèse* and *Renée*. Though they are devout, they have no knowledge of the Bible and its teachings. I continue to have regular contacts with *Isabelle*, who used to be at the military hospital and is now in Marseille. She is growing in the Lord. However, it is not unusual for me to spend ½ hour or more counseling her over the phone. She has a strong desire to grow in the Lord, be obedient to Him, and be a true witness for Him. Continue also to pray for *Manu*.



Besides our usual contacts with military families, we had a special evening for them on September 25th in the Military Christian Center, and several families came (**pictured here**). As a team, we bathed this evening in prayer and prepared a Power Point presentation based on Mark 8:29, "*Jesus said: and you, whom do you say I am?*" *John Gribbin*, one of my co-workers, led this time of spiritual meditation and interaction. **We thank the Lord** for touching the heart of *Jean-Pierre* especially. We have known him for about 20 years and he usually isn't able to come to our get-togethers, but this time he was here...and interested! After the meeting, I had opportunity to talk to him, after he brought up the subject. Then, later, *John Gribbin* also had a lengthy discussion with him. Pray for all those present, especially those who don't know the Lord:

- *Jean-Pierre & Farida* and 3 children (unsaved)
- *Romain & Judy* (unsaved)

- *Stéphane* (unsaved) & *Flavia* and 2 children
- *Phil & Sarah* and 2 children
- *Denis & Cathy*
- *Emmanuella* and 1 child: this was her first time. Her military husband couldn't come as he was on duty. Since then, they have been going to the Baptist Church in Hyères (suburb of Toulon) after we gave her the address and information about the church. They too live in that town.

With the new school year, the ministry with the young people from the hair-dresser school, and the guys from the neighborhood has continued. Pray for us as we share the Gospel with them.

I thank the Lord for allowing me to continue to be very involved in various aspects of church ministry - counselling, administration, music, choir, transportation. One of the recent highlights for me was the celebration of the 40th anniversary of our sister church in Toulon which my parents, my brother-in-law & sister started in 1970. I was part of the first youth group and one of the first 3 to be baptized in the church. The first wedding celebrated was when I got married to *Chuck Greenstreet* in 1973. I was asked to be part of the committee to help prepare a Power Point presentation retracing the history of the past 40 years of the church. There were three emphasis in the celebration (3 meetings): God's goodness and grace in the past (history) ; praise to God for the church today; and looking to the future for the next 40+ years, asking God to help the church grow in His grace. During this last meeting, three city and "state" top officials were present. We thank the Lord for the opportunity to witness to them and that they clearly were touched by all that was said and done.

I also **thank the Lord** for the ministry in the retirement home. The elderly are always anxious for us to come. Even the workers are happy to have us there and join us in the hymns and choruses. *Cimé*, a lady who comes to church, is also helping us now. She works in another retirement home and has just started the same spiritual outreach there. Pray especially for the salvation of *Séverine*.

As usual, space is lacking...**I praise God for you - Philippians 1:3-6! THANK YOU so much** for your faithful prayers, encouragement, and financial support. Please continue to uphold me before the Throne of Grace. May God bless, sustain & encourage you as you serve Him where He has placed you.

Joanna