



Gribbin's Grapevine

July-August 2011

Dear Supporting Churches and Praying Friends,

"SOUL FOOD" FOR A HURTING SOUL

Recently, as I talked with Gustave, (in paragraph 3) a former military going through a tough period in his life. I shared with him the truth of Psalm 19:7, "**The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul.**" In the French Bible, the word, **converting**, is "**restoring**." The two truths work together, for the Word of God not only converts, but it restores our souls from the time it enters and gives us new life. In the western world, much has been said about bad eating habits; very likely, in the spiritual realm, Christians' eating habits are even worse. No wonder there are so many troubled Christians. Our troubled friend needs the "**restoring**" truth of the Word in his present storm(s) of life. **DON'T WE ALL!**



Joy and John

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HE CAME TO CHURCH!

Stephane has been mentioned in previous letters and some of you pray for his salvation. Last Sunday (Aug 21) he came to church "out of the clear blue". His Christian wife, *Flavia*, could hardly believe it herself, for he almost never comes with her and the kids to church, except for fellowship dinners. The Sunday before (the 14th), I had mentioned to him that I was beginning a series on Revelation (on Power-Point), so that could be the reason he came. He did hear the Gospel, along with Revelation 3:20, so pray that he will open his heart's door to the Savior who may be knocking. He's one of a few French military for whom we're praying for salvation.

"PRISONER TO MY BODY"

Gustave, 38, is one of our former military, and very often he calls me and we talk about things in general. He had a troubled past (child abuse, occult experience) before we met him in 1997, and we had the privilege of sharing the Gospel, and the Word, with him. To him, we are his spiritual mentors. He came to know the Lord either then, or just before that time, though we didn't pray with him personally in a prayer of salvation. I need to talk with him about that specific moment in the next few days. Lately, as he says, due to his past experiences, he has been struggling with depression. He feels no strength to make any progress in his life, even with the Lord, because he says he

is "a prisoner to his body." Such expressions are one way of hiding things, **so we ask you to pray that Gustave will be honest with us** and trust God to help him through this painful period of his life.

FAMILY NEWS

Thankful for an unusual cooler summer, we've all been busy working or serving in one way or the other. *Joy* did a 2-week stint helping a Christian camp ministry near here. *Julie* did a week there, too, and passes her spare time looking--and trusting God--for a good job. It's great having her here to help in the church and Center ministry as well. *Janelle* is spending a short time with us this summer, and also spent a week helping to direct the same Christian camp. She's heading into another teaching situation (public schools) for which she would appreciate your prayers. *Joey*, our stateside "rep", is doing fine, working long hours, and serving in our home/sending church in Erie, PA. I also did a week of teaching during a special part of the Christian camp, a scuba diving camp. In all, a busy summer.

PRAYER AND PRAISE (cut out and put on your refrigerator)

1. Good to see M.T. (in her late 70's), coming often to church since our last Bible conference in April. She asks good questions about spiritual things and we've been able to share the Gospel with her.
2. Praise the Lord for good church attendance for an August Sunday--30.
3. The Military Christian Center ministry: we're much in prayer that the military be reached more effectively with the Gospel. Joy, our daughter, and others gave the Center a new and colorful paint job. **PLEASE PRAY FOR SOULS!**
4. Pray for Julie's job search, that the Lord would provide in His will.
5. A young man, who often comes to the Center, just learned that his mother committed suicide. We had been talking to him just recently about his need of Christ.

A pastor/writer said recently, "*hope is what energizes the soul, and promises are what we feed our soul in order to get hope, just like we energize our bodies by eating food.*" What would we do without...soul food? Praise God for the food of the Word of God, for it is dynamic, reviving, restoring, and filling. Millions are starving and thirsting in East Africa at this time, but another tragic fact is that so many Christians don't feed on the Word of God right beside them. **WE THANK YOU**--churches, friends, prayer partners--for your prayers as we try to help Gustave and others in France feed on the Bread that came down from Heaven.

Thankful for the Cross,



John & Joey
Missions To Military
Toulon, France