



Gribbin's Grapevine

July 2010

Dear supporting churches and friends,

Last month, you may have heard of the torrential rains that flooded the city of Draguignan and surrounding villages in our "state"--the Var--in southern France. Towns and villages looked like war zones. Nearly 30 died, and some were never found. As we recently meditated on Isaiah 47, verse 11 seemed to describe well what happened that day: *"Therefore shall evil come upon thee; thou shalt not know from whence it riseth: and mischief shall fall upon thee; thou shalt not be able to put it off: and desolation shall come upon thee suddenly, which thou shalt not know."*

For one young man, 17, it was so sudden, he drowned while doing repairs under his car in his own garage, water and mud rising so fast, he couldn't escape it.

Will this tragedy bring many people to repent and turn to God? If the national tragedy of Summer 2003 is any indication, then it would seem many here have turned a deaf ear to Him. That summer, around 15000 died in the suffocating heat wave. We didn't hear anything about many turning to God then.

At times we get to thinking, "I (we) *laboured in vain*" (Isaiah 49:4). Yet we still find a few hungry hearts here and there, like those who believed in Acts 17:34. So while God in His patience waits for them, and it is yet "to

day" (Heb. 4:7), pray that many here would not harden their hearts as we share the Gospel of Christ with them. There is still joy over one sinner who repents and comes to faith in Christ (Luke 15:10).



Joy and John
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Summer slow down

For July and August, things slow down, people are gone on vacation, and church attendance thins out. By the grace of God, we try to redeem the time by spending more time with some lost friends, and share the Gospel with them as the Lord allows. One special moment will be on July 17 when, at the Military Christian Center, we will celebrate the first birthday of the daughter of one French Military we've been praying for since 2004. Other fellow military might be there, but we're praying the Lord allows us an opening with this man who has heard the truth and the Gospel many times before.

Struggling sons in the faith

Two men, former French Military, are our sons in the faith. We thank the Lord for the blessing of having led them to faith in Christ

years ago. Now both of them are having huge struggles in the lives and families that challenge our patience, love, and wisdom. Recently, both have shown a desire to make progress in their walk with the Lord. One is obsessed with past issues that hurt him and he calls me at least once week. The other deals with present problems that parents are often confronted with and hesitates to call for counsel. Pray that these men find--and listen to--biblical solutions to their problems.

Prayer and Praise

1. **MANY lost souls.** I have a burden for two military we have known for some time, *Remy* and *Stephane*. Also, for several contacts through English both at the Center and in our homes. Remember *Denise* with whom we've shared the Gospel often and who despairs to see her aging parents fail in health. We had good talks on spiritual things with students in the hair stylist school before summer vacation.
2. Joy's witness to many **English students.** The wife of one just died, so pray for an opening with the widower.
3. The Baptist church in Draguignan, flooded in June; pray for their witness to people in that hard hit city.
4. **Personal revival.** That's our need and desire. Pray that this would affect our witness and our walk with the Lord.
5. **Financial support** - the Lord has helped us and our financial situation has improved. God is good, all the time.

You've been a blessing too, you've prayed for us and our work, you've given of your hard-earned money during a time of financial crisis. **Thank you for your faithfulness.** Last Sunday I spoke on these words: *"Take heed what ye hear"* (Mark 4:24). I needed that message as much as those who heard it. Looking at the theme of "hearing" throughout the Scriptures was amazing to say the least. Pray that we will have open ears and obedient hearts to do His Word and will.

Your servants in France,



John & Joey

Toulon, France