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Xtension network, Montérégie, Québec

Jean-Pierre and Abby
GRETH



Multiply disciples, train leaders

Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Mt 9.38

This year 2020 will go down in history to be a special, strange, abnormal year ... In any case, we have been challenged to review our ways of functioning, of working, of living. Our relationships with each other have changed. We all hope to get back to "normal". But we still wonder if we are not turning the page on a world to find a new one to which we will have to adjust.

As children of God, how do all of these changes affect us? First of all, we give thanks to our God who has made it possible for you to remain faithful and attached to the Lord. This was manifested, among other things, by your commitment to our financial support and your prayers for us. This is a huge source of joy and encouragement for us. We need each other and we especially need you!

We also thank the Lord for our weekly house group. The difficulty of gathering ourselves physically this spring made us even more aware how much this absence affects us. When, after 4 months of only virtual contact through computer screens, we gathered 10 of us around a meal - limit allowed - we didn't want

to leave each other. We decided to meet physically but, in the Church building, as public buildings don't have the same restrictions as in homes. Even though we had to keep our distances and couldn't kiss (you know how French people like to kiss!) at least we could talk face to face. What a joy!

Church life as a whole has been very disrupted. Confinement came when we had not yet returned to our building, (which had suffered a fire in May 2019) since the work had not yet been completed. Then, the rules changed and varied from one week to another. The result is that since March the Church has not yet come together physically as a whole. This affects relationships and many feel isolated or experience increased family tensions. Everyone's faith is tested. We pray for our families, our children and our teenagers. "May God strengthen their hearts so that they will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones." 1 Th 3:13

For our part, we have been "teleworking" – working from home. If we didn't have to go on the road, we spent hours in "Zoom" meetings. We must admit that we suffer from "zoomitis" and we're waiting impatiently to go back to meetings "in real". This year, 2 young men, who were students at the Académie Mouvement Jeunesse (2019-2020) took their training one

step further by being assessed, allowing us to establish their profile. By doing so, their Church, as well as their coaches, can better help them to pursue their commitments, orient their ministry and their growth in maturity. Through this process of evaluation, we were able to rejoice in the work of God in each of their lives. We can see that these young men are

growing and strengthening. We pray that the Lord will continue to perfect them and use them for His glory. This fall, 12 students registered to take the "Old Testament IV Overview" course. Several of them are registered at Sembeq in order to do a certificate or a bachelor.

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. Co 2:6-7

On a personal level, this confinement situation led us to help in two family situations. In the spring, we took a grandson home for 5 months to help the family. We are grateful to the Lord for having been able to accompany him and thus support our son and his wife. Then, in the fall, another situation arose. Abby's uncle, her father's brother, living in southwestern France, had come at the end of his life. This uncle, Henri, was widowed and childless. We were like his children having had a close relationship over the years. We were committed to looking after him and managing the estate would go to be with the Lord. This is how we had to go to France for several weeks. Henri passed away and we finished managing what needed to be

done on site. We are grateful for the good testimony he leaves behind. Several neighbors came to the funeral service or followed it over the internet. They were touched by the hope that was demonstrated through Henri's life. We continue to pray for their salvation. Although we have been absent from Quebec, this confinement situation has allowed us to continue our ministry relations and obligations without distance being a problem since everyone is isolated at home anyway and we all work through our computers. We can say: that also was a blessing. In normal circumstances it would have been much more difficult to manage those family events.

If, as Christians, we find this pandemic situation difficult to live with, we are very aware that the Lord is in control. He continues to make himself known and still wants to use us even if it is in a different way. However, those who do not know this peace of belonging to a faithful God are under a lot of stress. There are many who follow Sunday services on the Internet, and we know several of them. We pray that their thirst for the Lord Jesus Christ will grow to the point that they will seek Him with all their hearts and give their lives to Him.

As 2021 is starting may our lives be a demonstration of the reality of Christ's life in us despite the ordeals. This hopeless world needs it so badly. May the remembrance of God's coming among us, and of his great work for us, keep our hearts and minds in peace and the hope of his soon return. May our great Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, Master of heaven and earth, bless you in all respects in this new year. With our love in Christ,

Jean-Pierre and Abby

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