

Phillips in France

Serving with Bibles & Literature in French

November Gratitude!

November 2013



Prayer

• **Praise God** for His perfect timing and His provision of strength, health, safety, money, and new tires in time for winter.

• **Praise God** for the board and staff at BLF USA who help and encourage us as we work overseas.

• **Please pray** for wisdom as we take a serious look at our finances.

• We have started a Bible study with our neighbors. **Praise God** for their interest in the Bible. **Please pray** for them as God draws them closer to him. **Pray** that they would accept Jesus as Lord.

The 1st of November is a holiday in Europe: All Saints' Day or *La Toussaint*. Since it was a Friday, it made for a great three-day weekend!

On Friday, we were up early to go to the Bible Memorization Contest 2 hours away in the town of L'Épine. Five of the youth from our church had worked to memorize not only an entire chapter of Proverbs but also the context. There were about 20 churches with teams of five who participated. After an entire day of answering memorization, fill-in-the-blank, and speed questions, our church's youth placed an impressive fourth place! And, we had an excellent day of encouragement and fun with our church family.

We took Saturday for a little rest and a little exploration. To celebrate our 1 year anniversary, we went to explore the town of Givet. It is located in a little finger of France that sticks up into Belgium. I think between the town and our bed & breakfast we crossed the border 8 times in less than 24 hours!

Givet is a beautiful, ancient village with a long walk along the river Meuse. We explored the town and found an old lookout tower high on a hill and one of the three remaining "doors" into the city.

At BLF Europe, we were all about getting our new titles out into the world. The three versions of Parole Vivante have been very popular, especially the pocket-size. The French version of *The Big Red Tractor* (by Francis Chan) has done very well, and the video on YouTube has over 1,500 views already! Nathan and I lined up pallets along the wall as we filled orders for the bookstores preparing for Christmas sales.

The pallet of books we sent to the Evangelist Forum in Benin, Africa arrived safely, but a little late. After a very successful 3 day training, several participants stayed an extra week waiting for the books to clear customs and be distributed. The rest will be sent by mail and messenger to the other evangelists. One of the leaders declared concerning the Forum, "We

should not let this great victory be swallowed up by the small defeat of the books being late!"

At the end of the month, we had a great Thanksgiving with the Kapitaniuk family. The family is a wonderful mix of French and America and a great joy for Nathan and I. The Kapis try to invite at least one true French friend to enjoy and learn about Thanksgiving when they celebrate. This year, we were able to demonstrate a traditional Thanksgiving feast for Guéna, the fiancée of Jeremie, the 2nd son, and a neighbor. Turkey, sweet potatoes, rolls, and pie for all – and it was delicious! A great ending to November, because we celebrated on Saturday, the 30th. Thanksgiving and Black Friday are not holidays in France.

November also saw our first house-guest, when Karl, BLF USA board member, came to visit us for a weekend. We now refer to our guest room as Karl's room – that is, until our next guest comes! Who will it be?!

Karl came to France fresh from a BLF USA board meeting. The board discussed some changes to Nathan and

my support needs. Though our status as residents outside America seems to release us from the requirements of the Affordable Care Act, our first year's budget did not account for any retirement planning. It is BLF policy to provide retirement savings, so this and the rising dollar-to-euro exchange rates are prompting a recalculation of our support needs.

We will need an additional \$155 a month for retirement savings. And, the cost of euros to dollars has risen 10¢ since July. In general everything is about 4% more expensive than it was when we returned to France in March. Therefore, during December, Nathan and I will re-think our budget. We will know more about that for the next newsletter.

But, we are continually reminded of how God provides for His workers! **Two** unexpected money gifts came during November that helped us pay our bills and buy two new tires for the car! It was perfect God-timing.

Thank you for your continued support, interest, and prayers.

Rent in June \$719.40 (550€)	Rent in December \$756.25 (550€)
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Praise God for new tires!



At the entrance of the B&B
"From this point on you are in France"



Some views of Givet, France

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New address!