



Phillips in France

Serving with Bibles & Literature in French

Joy and Peace

December 2013



Prayer

• **Praise God** for a successful end to the year 2013! We truly feel blessed and secure in what God is doing with our lives and with BLF. It's exciting to watch.

• **Praise God** for His promises – not of comfort and plenty, but of provision, peace, and joy – beyond our efforts or imaginations.

• **Please pray** for our new budget. Pray for God's leading and people's willingness to give to our work with Bibles & Literature in French.

• **Continue to pray** for the Bible study with our neighbors. Schedules change in January; pray that they will be motivated to continue the study and go to church regularly.

It seems like just a little while ago that Nathan and I were home in the United States for the holiday months. And, at the same time, it seems like a long time ago. Thinking back to December 2012: Nathan was recovering from an unplanned – but quickly coordinated – surgery, and we were sending off the Molsee family for their studies in France before going to minister in Togo, Africa. Wow! What a blessed time that was! And how much has God done since then?!

This month saw the annual General Assembly meeting of BLF Europe. We discussed all that was accomplished in the past year, the changes that were made, and what is planned for 2014. BLF produced 13 new products, including 6 brand new titles. The other 7 titles were completely updated and re-edited. The Parole Vivante New Testaments (in hardback, paperback, and pocket-sized) are a big achievement because the number of pages and associated workload is the equivalent of 9 normal books. It was a very productive year, even with Philip (Director of Publications) out of the country much of the time!

Just after the big meeting, we held a smaller celebration with just our BLF family. We praised God for all that was accomplished and the exciting changes we already see coming in 2014. It was great to be together! We have also continued a small Bible study with our neighbors. It's amazing to see them discover things in the Bible that Nathan and I have been blessed to know our entire lives.

And, of course, there was Christmas and New Year's. BLF takes the week off between the 2 holidays, so Nathan and I enjoyed a little vacation! We caught up on some home projects and got out to walk when we could. The big celebration for Christmas is actually Christmas Eve in France. We were invited to our friends' house for the traditional turkey dinner, games, and songs. Then, later on Christmas Day, we got to talk to our families in America. For New Year's we went to our neighbors' house and counted down with

them in French. It was truly a joyous holiday; or as they say here, "*Joyeuses fêtes!*"

Budget update

We've watched God provide for the needs of BLF and our friends, as well as ourselves. The year has been a rollercoaster from one end of the world to the other, but God promises that "all things work together for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). And we know that 2014 will be no different! There will be good times and times of "stretching". We look forward to seeing what God holds for this next year.

As we told you in the last newsletter, Nathan and I looked over and changed our budget for this year to reflect a higher exchange rate and to include a new retirement plan. We added a new Mac computer for Nathan as well. After 7 years, the old one does not work well. So, by the time we come back to the USA in 2015, the money will be saved to buy the computer and software he needs.

We praise God for our team of about 35 churches, individuals, and families who faithfully give monthly and for every one of you who care and pray for us continually. 2013 was a year of ups and downs for more than just the exchange rate. We've had some unexpected gifts toward our ministry but have also seen a small drop in the monthly giving. Nonetheless it puts us back down to 84% of our support needs.

To be back at 100%, we need an additional \$316 a month. Will you pray with us for God to provide for this need? Then we will be able to celebrate together when the prayers are answered!

Expenses Increased (per month)	
Retirement.....	\$125
Computer.....	\$117
Exchange Rate.....	\$160
Medical.....	\$90

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

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The BLF Europe General Assembly meeting



Our Christmas Eve dinner.