



One Another



Ministries International

Dorcas L. Harbin

Dear friends and family,

Spring 2009

The months of Spring are my favorites and this year was no exception with the natural beauty of southern France, and with the opportunities of ministry I have just enjoyed. A pastor reminded me "David encouraged himself in the Lord" and I am encouraged by His activity in our midst. Since we have all faced challenges in the midst of economic downturns, there is good news from Proverbs 11:25. This verse sheds new perspective and promise to the reality around us. *"A generous man will prosper, and he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."* I am sure God is about to refresh many of you! Your gifts, prayers and support have encouraged me, and God has allowed me to refresh others in several parts of the world. Catch a glimpse of your refreshment in this region:

MARCH: I received very special guests in March. One couple works in a difficult part of the world. Residual cultural differences, job and family demands, language, climate and responsibility often take their toll. Like Jesus and his disciples, we see how important it is to come away and how having the opportunity to debrief and talk through their experiences, gives new perspective. A week later I was working with a young woman. I like the variety of working with missionaries who are both new to the field as well as those who are veterans. Despite age or experience, they all need encouragement and a helping hand. I also enjoyed participating in a missions conference in Florida via SKYPE. Technology is amazing to connect us over 6000 miles and praise the Lord, this church increased my monthly support!

A week later I went to North Africa. It is important for you to know not only do we help folks here at our ministry centers in France (made possible by your gifts), but we also go to the point of need. Joined by another colleague, I participated in a staff retreat for 48 missionaries, did some specialized sessions, and was available for counsel for 7 days. Each morning I was wakened by the "call to prayer" in that country, sensing keenly the oppression these workers live with daily. While I was there, a home group had been discovered and 5 European missionaries were deported back to their sending country. We cannot take our freedom for granted and I encourage you to pray for those who work in restricted and limited access countries. Their challenges are great.

APRIL: My time in North Africa was good preparation for many of the missionaries I worked with in April. I was again invited to the EurAsia conference with Pioneers held in Split, Croatia. What a beautiful part of the world that is! In addition to being available for counsel, I also spoke to their single personnel in a collaborative workshop and that was fun to be

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outside with a view of the Adriatic Sea. My heart was encouraged with God's creation but especially with that special group of singles -- all called into His harvest. And here's a picture of the whole group -- 150 sharp people who are starting to feel like family. They were refreshed -- I was refreshed -- and just look at your investment represented in church plants in over 23 countries throughout their extended regions.



An added bonus for me was reconnecting with people now in leadership positions whom I had disciplined and worked with during my Liberty days. Another blessing was my niece Rachelle Dean, who volunteered her time to serve the missionaries with her gifts in Physical Therapy. Many who had sustained injuries or accidents were thrilled to have their practical physical needs met. She worked on 42 missionaries in 6 days. Encouragement often looks very practical and confirms all of our gifts are needed in Kingdom work.

When I returned to France following the conference, I found several notes and comments from those I served and worked with, and I'd like to share some with you. Actually, imagine YOUR name on each one, because they are really thanking you:

- Thank you so much for your really important investment in my life through your counsel at this conference. I really appreciate all you did for me...listening, asking, advising, giving me tools for evaluations and counsel. I hope to see you again.
- It was exciting for me to know you are here in Europe, too! I hope you know how much God is doing through you.
- We are so very thankful you came again. You are a great blessing to our "family" and we pray your time with us was a tiny blessing to you, too. You are appreciated!
- You are such a blessing to know and I appreciate your ministry to others. I pray you, too, feel renewed and refreshed this week. Thank you for all you do -- you always make me smile when I see you, even if it is across a room. Thanks!
- Thank you for your kindness and thoughts; you are such a blessing to the families here. Thanks for your service and sacrifice. God bless you.

MAY: This month we had opportunity to interface with a variety of missionary personnel. We have noticed the need to target care for leadership on the field as they often face great challenges in their own work and those whom they supervise or oversee. We had the opportunity to focus on some of those folks in May. Some are in transition and needed time to debrief, consult and plan out their next phase. Taking the time to get away to a safe place is often just what they need. *You help provide that for personnel we serve.* Last month your help included their work and influence in over 51 countries! One lady said "You have helped bring back the color to my world." That is the power of encouragement.

Personal and Prayer Requests:

- There are highlights of living in another culture. A personal praise was the blessing of being invited to dinner by my French neighbor. She is a delightful elderly woman whom I have come to respect and it was a delight to meet many of her family. Please pray I may be a good neighbor and in all ways represent Christ.
- Thanks for the special birthday cards, notes, emails and gifts I received. I am eager to read some of the new books I received and listen to the new CD's.
- I especially want to thank many of you for praying for Mother (Annie Harbin) who had a mild heart attack on May 28th. She is home now and growing stronger each day. In addition to my three wonderful nieces, many of you have cared for her and my Dad with calls, meals, visits, and gifts. Our family is blessed by your expressions of love. Being so far away has been made easier because of your gestures of love and your prayers. Thank you so very much.
- Please pray for our team as we leave for England for our supervision time next week. Pray God will keep our skills sharpened; always striving for excellence in our work.
- *Support:* A visitor recently asked "who pays for all this ministry and the work that goes on?" The answer was "my supporters" - you! Many of you have been hit with the economy, churches have been impacted, too, and that trickles down to us. I want to ask you to consider a special gift to help me through the summer months. I will be taking a furlough at the end of the year, but due to the devalued dollar, I need some additional gifts to be able to continue the work we have planned for this summer. Thank you for prayerfully considering this need and how you might help. I am claiming Proverbs 11:25 again and believing "he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."

May God pour out His blessings on each of you and bless you so you can bless others.

Together to make Him known,



Tax-deductible gifts can be sent to:

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