

Greetings in the name of **JESUS-- the Perfect Lamb and the Good Shepherd**

God's ways are not our ways. One month ago I, Rowena, fractured the malleolus ankle bone. I heard the crack and as I fell, I said: "I know, Lord, that you have allowed this!" Amazingly, my laundry and grocery shopping was up-to-date, with food in our freezer. Cupboards were starting to be orderly after our home-improvement project a year ago. A lady had asked me a few days before my accident if I might want help with the children's ministry because God had put it on her heart. What blessings!

And then...I was stopped. But **God was not surprised**. At the Emergency ward I prayed with a distraught, angry lady and then was with the radiologist longer than necessary who spoke of his spiritual journey and of my attachment to Jesus. Church people offered help. Phone calls and visits filled my days. I was **doing exactly what the Lord had for me**...not worrying about meal preparation or a dust-free house.

The gate remained unlocked, and people were in and out. "My" nurse is joining **l'Eglise Baptiste de Fréjus** with her husband this Saturday at our **church business meeting (March 22)** in our home. She sometimes brings grandchildren when she gives my daily shots to avoid blood clots. Her three 14-year-old granddaughters took a liking to me and two were in church this past Sunday for the first time in their lives. I am amazed what God puts together in all the mix-up of our disappointments and pain. Steve taught **Sunday School** to fill in for the lady who had prepared and couldn't carry through. He thought of a retired pastor friend in the area to fill the pulpit...the children loved Sunday School with Pastor Steve! We have kept Sunday School going; new, untrained teachers have done their best. And I have worked harder preparing for and with them than when I was the only teacher!

In this context, our church attendance has recently grown, and the children's class tripled. Difficult situations in a nearby sister church contributes to this influx; we would rather that **wounded brothers and sisters** worship with us than to attend nowhere. New people visit and stay, others come back. We were over 60 this past Sunday. I accompanied the worship service from my wheelchair! Most encouraging is the **B. family deep in the occult** showing spiritual interest. Steve found the house cleaned up and 5 adults attentive to the salvation message through the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Church planting for us means observing people's capacities and desires and gradually accompanying them into leadership roles. **Easter** will be a great day of celebration and victory that our faith is not in vain! Pray for the sunrise service at a nearby lake and the potluck breakfast at the church preceding the worship service. I would love to accompany the outdoor singing with my accordion!

Steve will be attending the **St Denis church business meeting on March 29th**. New members and leaders will be voted in; the Lord is calming the hearts of the dear brothers and sisters who have faithfully labored throughout unsettled times. Steve will also return to preach in St Denis on **April 6th**.

I think of Joseph, Moses, Elijah, and Jeremiah for whom God turned bad into good for His eternal glory. Thank you for joining us on this bumpy earthly journey. **Happy Easter...Christ is Risen!**

Rowena (and Steve) Barnes serving in France with Biblical Ministries Worldwide