Rowena's report May 23, 2025

Greetings from Fréjus, France, in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus Christ! Your personal notes mean alot and your prayers carry us. I didn't quite believe it would take 3 months of healing and therapy for my fractured ankle. But I wouldn't trade the richness in ministry and the personal times with the Lord that I experienced.

## **Blessings:**

- **Growth in church attendance** means more children, 4 babies, and several pre-teens as well as rethinking how to better use the space we have at church. And yes, the children are happy to come and to learn; discipline problems have been absorbed. I have 4 ladies who help on a rotation basis. Thanks for praying.
- Two young ministry-oriented couples (French/American and the Ukrainian pastor using our facilities) would like to attend the **ABF pastors retreat July 7-9** with us.
- Rachel, our older daughter living in Switzerland, was the guest speaker at the St Denis ladies retreat May 16-18 in which over 40 ladies experienced sweet fellowship and found spiritual encouragement. Steve will be speaking in St Denis June 1<sup>st</sup>: The church is moving forward and tapping into new leadership and hidden talents among the church family.... this brings joy to our hearts.
- **Spiritual children and grandchildren** seek us out; our guest rooms are being used once again. We always find time for them, never guessing what the needs will be.
- The monthly church family pot-luck dinner scheduled at our home in May was postponed because of expected rain; it is rescheduled for June 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Four churches in the area borrow our portable baptistry. It is a joy to share!

## **Prayer requests:**

- **Steve speaks** at a retreat that the church in Nice is organizing **May 29-31**. He is continually reading and studying for himself and for the extra "manna" he provides.
- The workers sharing the load in the Frejus church are few indeed. We understand the limits of each one, but it is heavy for us. And new attendees need time to heal and decide what God has for them. God is building His church and giving it stability; we want to respect the needs of each one. When they are ready, they express it.
- One of the owners of our rented church building has shared that he wants to retire and sell. We would have first choice to buy. Pray for wisdom for this recent news.
- Thanks for praying with us about a youth meeting and a men's breakfast in late June.
- Our mission's annual conference in Germany (BMW) is July 28-Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>. And 3 carloads from Fréjus will attend the family camp in central France August 18-23.

Rejoice with us and keep praying for us....we need you! **Steve and Rowena Barnes**