

“Redeeming the time for the days are evil...” Eph 5:16 keeps coming to my mind. Steve and I value every opportunity we have, not knowing how long we will stay “young”. Please smile. When advice pours in to “get out of the fast lane”, we remind each other that we couldn’t be happier doing anything else in life. I told my Sunday School children recently it would be wonderful to be teaching about Jesus when He comes to take His own up to Glory. Yes, we are more intentional about health, exercise and food choices. You will be glad to know I have found a cleaning lady, who helps wherever I need her for 2 hours a week! And now for an update on the last 3 months.

Praises:

- We rejoice to have more children and youth attending church, and to have more nationalities represented. A single mom gave testimony of faith and plans to invest in the children’s ministry. Attendance is encouraging, needs abound; the natural “healer” deep in sorcery attends quite regularly and an unsaved widow of 6 weeks is attending with her 4-year-old.
- Steve’s messages have an impact in our midst and beyond. A lady asked Steve to preach yesterday’s sermon at her funeral (she is not that old). God enables him, as He did his dad, to expound simply and beautifully the truths of God’s Word. His daily devotionals are high priority for him; many thank him.
- We feel blessed to see fruit bringing forth more fruit. Two weddings of spiritual grandchildren in April (at La Rochelle and near Fontainebleau) plus unending visits and calls keep us lifting up fellow believers. Ladies (46) in St Denis (where we spent 38 years) were recently blessed by the retreat speaker (Biblical counsellor) who is a dear sister in whom we have invested for many years. Two elders in that church are studying God’s Word online to better lead the church: Marcel, a pastor’s son from Congo, and Ahcène, from Algeria and totally blind, who had spent months in our home as a teen and is now a capable church leader. *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. 3 John vs 4.*

Prayer requests:

- Rachel and Christian, our daughter in Switzerland, provided a Sunday School series (4 years). She meticulously photocopied, laminated, and filed the materials. I need prayer to personally assimilate it and train workers for September. I plan to have 2 classes instead of the one I presently teach (toddlers through 12 yr olds along with one Down’s syndrome adult)
- We are still evaluating our new church property, purchased in February, to best utilize the space. This 2nd entrance to the meeting room could serve as a multi-functional area for a kitchenette, baby area for mom’s, and an area for youth to gather in. Steve is sure I have overestimated its potential.
- Our grand-daughter, Ketsia, 20 year old 2nd year nursing student, is in the CAR helping in a clinic and orphanage until June 19th, a big change from where she grew up. Miriam is graduating from high school in Dansville, NY, third in her class. We are proud of her testimony.

Looking ahead:

- We will be States-side from July 17- August 25 : **Denver** area at Beth Eden Mission’s Conference July 26-29 and at Red Rocks Church August 2nd. **Des Moines IA** August 6-7 will find us visiting Andrew and Wanda (Steve’s brother) with an “open house” to see friends. Emmanuel Baptist (our home church) in **Toledo OH** will find us on August 9th. We will visit Steve’s sister-in-law in **Indianapolis** and our children in **MN** and **NY** and in-laws in **IN**. In-between, we will drop in and out of homes and churches.

We thank you profusely for your patience, generosity, prayer intercession, and unending friendship in the Gospel. The apostle Paul experienced that wherever he went. *Rowena (and Steve) Barnes*