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Bonjour!

Rachel's Health

A few of you who only receive our news by regular mail may not be aware of what we learned after sending out the print version and before sending the email version of our last newsletter. Here is part of the message that went out with the email edition on September 12: "This past Friday I was preparing to send out the email version of our newsletter, when my attention was diverted by a personal situation. I took Rachel to the doctor's office because of some stroke-like symptoms she had started having over the past two or three weeks. They had come on gradually, and we had not really noticed some of them or realized they were connected. After examining Rachel, the nurse practitioner strongly recommended that she be admitted immediately to the hospital for tests. Those tests have revealed that Rachel's problems are due, not to a stroke, but to a brain tumor. Because of its size (over 1.5 inches across) and placement in the frontal lobe, the doctors do not believe it can be surgically removed without her being permanently paralyzed on her left side. A biopsy is scheduled for today, after which Rachel will probably be released from the hospital while we wait for results, expected to be available on Friday. At that time various non-surgical treatment options can be considered."

Since that time we have been through a lot, as you can imagine. The official diagnosis ended up being that Rachel has an aggressive form of cancer known as glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) which means an average life expectancy of six to 18 months. Although in some patients most of a tumor may be surgically removed, it will either grow back or others will develop in other parts of the brain in 100% of patients. We have followed standard treatment, which consists of radiation and chemotherapy, and a less orthodox protocol under the direction of an oncologist who is also a member of our local congregation. We realize, however, that the only real hope of physical healing is God. We are comforted by the knowledge that literally thousands of Christians around the world are praying daily for us, but we are fully ready to accept whatever God decides, trusting His wisdom, His power and His love and knowing that even if He does not choose to remove this cancer, Rachel has a glorious hope of a new body and a heavenly home. We are also fully convinced that God is already answering prayers by giving us the strength we need to face each day as it comes and to recognize the wonderful blessings that each day brings.

After recovering somewhat from the surgery for the biopsy (they had to cut a hole in her skull to insert a needle and take a sample of the tumor) and before beginning a series of 30 radiation treatments over a period of six weeks, Rachel and I made a trip to Texas to see her parents. Both in Texas and here in Tennessee, she made a point of seeing some individuals whom she loves and encouraging them to do what they need to do for their own salvation. She has also written a number of journal entries on an Internet blog on the website www.caringbridge.org; these entries display her positive attitude in the midst of a difficult situation."



Rachel about to receive radiation treatment

' It is hard to give you a clear picture of Rachel's current condition. The most difficult time was during the third and fourth weeks of radiation, which caused a fair amount of temporary dementia and a lot of fatigue, in addition to the loss in cognitive ability. She has lost a lot of hair because of the radiation, though she is not bald. She walks with either a cane or a walker and generally needs help with her daily needs such as bathing, dressing, keeping up with medication, etc. On the positive side, she has not experienced much pain, has not missed many church services, and still remembers some things much better than I do. She was working on maintaining her strength by walking in our neighborhood (using a "rollator," or walker on wheels, and accompanied by myself or someone else), a mile in the morning and a mile in the afternoon, weather permitting. A little over ten days ago she began to experience shortness of breath and fever. She ended up spending last week back in the hospital, having developed blood clots in the lungs and the left leg. She is now on blood thinner, but the clots could easily take months to dissolve. The shortness of breath continues, but we still hope to make another quick trip to Texas to be with her family for Christmas.'

' Our sons, Andrew and Matthew, have both chosen to work here in Nashville in order to be here for their mother and me. Andrew, who is doing travel nursing, requested an assignment at Southern Hills Hospital about a mile from our house (though he got an apartment in what I would call midtown Nashville). Matthew is working for a wildlife removal service and living at home. He helps us in many ways, from dishes to laundry to spending the night at the hospital so I can get some rest, and has been a source of comfort and pride to both Rachel and me.'

' The members of the Grieve Hall Church of Christ have been an incredible source of help and encouragement. Various ones took turns driving Rachel to her radiation treatments Monday through Friday for six weeks. For over three months now our brothers

and sisters have provided a regular stream of delicious meals, delivered every other day, and relieving me of most of the burden of shopping and cooking. In the afternoons, different ladies come to sit with Rachel so that I can either do errands or make it to the office to work for a few hours; while there, they often help out with ironing, folding clothes, cleaning or other domestic chores. The young people came to rake the leaves in our yard one day. Our house was given a thorough cleaning when I took Rachel to Texas to see her family. Collectively and individually, Grieve Hall members have given generously to take away the stress of medical expenses not covered by our health insurance. It feels like almost everyone has told us that they love us and are praying fervently for us every day. I can truthfully say that, in spite of everything, I have never been more conscious of God's blessings and of the beauty of the world's people." (We have also been made aware of the love of our physical families. Rachel's dear cousins, for example, took up a very generous contribution to help with our various expenses.)"



Showing Get Well Cards from Children's Bible Class

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French World Outreach %

As you probably guess from what I have just written, my available hours for the French ministry have been severely reduced. To begin with, I cancelled plans for three upcoming mission trips (though I was able to recruit two fine brothers to make the trip to New Caledonia in my place). With tending to Rachel's daily needs, taking her to doctor's appointments, supervising medication, dealing with prescriptions, insurance, housework and other tasks that Rachel used to handle but is no longer able to, I have relied extensively on my wonderful coworker, Garrett McGilvray. In God's providence, Garrett had been with us long enough when Rachel got sick that he already knew how to carry on with the work whether I made it in to the office on a given day or not. When I am in the office, I have to spend a fair amount of time taking care of tasks that Rachel would have done, especially the

bookkeeping, paying bills and depositing checks. I do manage to proofread things that Garrett needs to print, give instructions regarding materials to be shipped to various places, answer email and take care of other jobs, but obviously not the way I normally would.

In addition to continuing to print and fill orders for books, tracts and correspondence courses, we were able to print and ship another 17,000 copies of our teaching periodical, *Chemin de Vérité*. This is one of the most important aspects of our ministry, but it also requires a steady stream of funds to pay for postage. Unfortunately, two churches that have provided funding to provide this teaching tool to over 700 congregations around the world have had to reduce the amount they send. If any churches or individuals would like to help with this work, especially through a regular, monthly contribution, it would be greatly appreciated, not only by us, but by brethren from Tahiti to Mali, and PortLauPrince to Paris."

Website(s) for Muslims

One major accomplishment in the past quarter that has given me a great deal of satisfaction is the creation of a website in French specifically for Muslims, something I have dreamed of for a number of years now. (Remember that many Muslim countries also happen to be part of the French speaking world.) We have published brochures to be used as tools for evangelizing our Muslim friends, but I recognize that in some environments it would be dangerous for a person to have Christian literature on his person or among his belongings. One of the advantages of the Internet, for those who have access to it, especially through their own mobile phone or personal computer, is that they can more discreetly satisfy their curiosity about the Bible."

I am thus very happy to announce the creation of the site, descendoversnous.com. The name of the site is taken from a verse in the Qur'an that speaks of the revelations given by Allah before the time of Muhammad and which commands Muslims to give the same respect to these revelations that they give to the Qur'an. The Qur'an 2:136 says: "Say, 'We believe in God and what was revealed to us; and what was revealed to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and their descendants, and what was given to Moses and Jesus and what was given to the [other] prophets by their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them. It is to Him that we surrender ourselves.'"

On this new site we have tried to explain and defend the truth of the Gospel, that which God "revealed to us," but we have tried to do so in a respectful way, conscious of some of the points to which Muslims are often particularly sensitive. The website currently includes about a hundred articles on five different themes: (1) the trustworthiness of the Bible (Muslims are usually taught that it has been corrupted); (2) the reality and the meaning of the death of Jesus, including the plan of salvation (Muslims believe that it only appeared that Jesus had been crucified); (3) the nature of God and the relationship between God and Jesus (with special attention to the phrase, "Son of God"); (4) the various characters of the Bible who are also mentioned in the Qur'an (and whose stories Muslims do not generally know); and (5) the life of Isaa, alMasih (Jesus, the Messiah). Each article can be read or listened to online or downloaded as a pdf or mp3 file to be studied offline or shared with others. God willing, other themes will be added with time, but first we are working on creating the same site in English (www.revealedtous.com). With God's help, we also want to put these same articles into Arabic. The address of the Arabic site will be www.allkitab.fr."



Screenshot of the top of the home page

The content of the site was written by me, but the website would not have been possible without the hard work and considerable skill of Garrett McGilvray. He took into account a multitude of details in order for the site to both look good and function properly with as many browsers as possible. The different versions of Explorer, Firefox, Chrome and Safari, whether it be for cell phones (Android) as well as Apple (i.e. for laptops, tablets or desktop computers).

Garrett and I have also been working on the new French version of the World Bible School site, which we hope to see launched very soon. Hundreds of French speakers in various countries have already put their names on a waiting list to enroll in the online courses as soon as the website is ready.

As always, we thank you for your prayers and support and interest in the work among the French speaking people of the world.

In Him,
Barry