



Notes of Prayer and Praise *from*

Bob and Cyndi Scott

February 2018

Dear Friends and Prayer partners,

Bonjour! from Toulon, France.

*II Corinthians 1:2: "Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ." This greeting, characteristic of the opening lines of most of the New Testament epistles, is the greeting we extend to you. Paul continues in verses 3-7, "3 Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who **comforteth** us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to **comfort** them which are in any trouble, by the **comfort** wherewith we ourselves are **comforted** of God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our **consolation** also aboundeth by Christ. And whether we be afflicted, it is for your **consolation** and salvation, [...] or whether we be **comforted**, it is for your **consolation** and salvation. And our hope of you is steadfast, knowing that, as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the **consolation**."*

Comfort and consolation are noun and verb forms of the same word in Greek, used ten times in just these 5 verses. Paul certainly seems to be making a point about God's comfort in times of trial and affliction!

This past year has perhaps been our most difficult so far and, in so many ways, we have experienced that same comfort and consolation and had opportunities to extend it to others. We have so much to be thankful for! **We are thankful for your faithfulness** in standing behind us with your prayers and gifts.

Christmas weekend was Bob's first time

home in 14 months. In October 2016, after a bone graft to correct a femur fracture that had failed to knit, he was transferred to an orthopedic rehab center (25 miles away) for what was supposed to be a one-month stay. He has been in a wheel chair for 99% of this time, with an external fixation screwed onto his thigh and his feet in foam blocks. A series of complications has stretched that 1 month stay into 15 months: staph infection, 2 more fractures, 2 more surgeries, pressure sore on his heel, cardio issues. On January 24th, he had his external fixation device removed. Though he had just started walking some (mainly in physical therapy) with crutches, he is again limited to the parallel bars while the holes left in bone and skin heal and close up. Mobility is still considerably limited.



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We expect he will be released in the next month or two, but of course, we've been thinking and saying that for over a year now. Because of the stairs at the entry of our apartment building, Bob will not be able to come and go independently for yet a while. Currently 2 ambulance attendants lift him up the stairs in his wheel chair when he comes home for weekends. So when he's home, he is basically homebound.

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A related concern:

The pressure sore on his heel that has prevented Bob from wearing his orthopedic shoes, though not healed, seems to have stabilized. Doctors have just this week decided to give the shoes a try and monitor closely for adverse effects. This would greatly improve his stability on crutches.

There are still uncertainties ahead, but this one thing we know. Our Lord is faithful and merciful! His grace is truly sufficient! Meanwhile, we have had opportunities to minister and to be ministered to, or to comfort and be comforted, as Paul expressed in 2 Corinthians.

We were blessed by a visit from *Yves LeBever* and his daughter, *Patricia*, this past spring. Yves, a retired French Navy Seal, was one of the very first fruits of the French Center ministry under Chuck Greenstreet. Bob and Yves worked together in our church's youth ministry back in the 80's. Yves now serves as a chaplain to the French armed forces, and has pastored a church in the north of France.

We also had the pleasure of receiving *Guy Reynier*, with his wife, *Tracie*, and their twin daughters over the Christmas holidays. They were regulars for several years at the Center while Guy was career navy. They live in Australia now, but were back in France for the holidays to visit Guy's parents. They came another 400 miles, to Toulon, to see us and some other friends. We shared a meal of raclette, a favorite winter dish where you melt cheese at the table and enjoy it over conversation, cold cuts, and potatoes. (Yes, we do melt the cheese in a special machine at the table, but it's not fondue, in case you're wondering.)

Cyndi did a lot of baking in December, and continuing into January, for our church's Christmas conference, and to distribute to friends, neighbors, and health care professionals as an expression of our love and appreciation.

All through the month of January it is customary (*de rigueur!*) to extend New Year's greetings to family, friends, business relations, and even casual acquaintances. This can be face to face with a hearty kiss or handshake, or by phone or a written message. It is a good opportunity to reconnect with those we haven't seen for a while and remind them of God's grace.

Cyndi shared the Gospel again this week with *Michel*, a neighbor who was preparing his garage for rental. He loses sleep over what will become of his (modest) fortune once he's gone from this earth and it passes to his son. He doesn't trust estate attorneys. He doesn't trust real estate managers. He doesn't trust his son. Seeking to test his sensitivity to the Lord's perspective, she showed him from Ecclesiastes where King Solomon had similar concerns and concluded that, when all is said and done, the best course is to fear the Lord and observe His commandments. Michel plainly stated he wasn't ready to go that route either. Pray that, in the night instead of fretting over his fortune, he will consider what was presented and be moved to seek the Lord. It was Solomon who said the Lord has placed the thought of eternity in the heart of man. May Michel open his heart to the question of his eternal destiny and turn to the risen and living Christ, the way the truth and the life.

Bob has had numerous opportunities to witness to personnel and patients at the rehab center. *Sabrina* and *Fabrice*, a couple who were patients for a year subsequent to a motorcycle accident, have both just been released. *Laetitia* and *Vanessa*, in rehab for spinal cord injuries, have also heard the Gospel several times.



Franck, one of the ambulance drivers, is a Christian, and new in the region. Chance encounters with another Christian are quite rare over here, so he and Bob were mutually delighted to discover a brother in Christ. They carried on such an animated conversation that Franck's colleague suggested he stop the vehicle and change places with her so that she could drive and Franck could get in the back with Bob to continue their conversation. The next time Bob saw him, he was able to give him a bulletin with encouragement as well as the activities and location of a Baptist church on his side of Toulon.

There is a buyer for the MTM facility in Toulon, and it is in the final weeks of a months long process of being sold.

Due to age, health and mobility issues, we are taking steps to transition towards retirement status. Though we are on a waiting list for handicap accessible housing in Toulon, we are also considering a return to the USA to be near our children. There are still some variables in the equation, and **we would ask you to pray for us to be wise and discerning as we try to process the various factors and to be disposed to follow the Lord's leading.**

THANK YOU for your prayers and gifts that allow us to be a light in this spiritually darkened land. Please continue to pray with us that God will be glorified in our lives and that in all things Christ might have the preeminence.



In His Service,

Bob & Cyndi Scott
Toulon, France