

Houle Family Update

December 2011

Hello faithful friends,

A few months have gone by and as we look back we can only say: "Thank-you Lord for your faithfulness."
We come to this Christmas season with grateful hearts and thankful praises. The Lord is good: "ALL THE TIME."

Luke 2: 8-14 Glory in the Highest

⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

***¹⁴ " Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"***

Subjects of praise: 2010 God's provision and God's clinging of others to Himself

August

- 1) 53 participants for soccer camps in Bury and Sawyerville (help to host the camp from Pastor Brian, and some of his church members from Fryburg Maine, and some teens from our local church in Sherbrooke (free soccer balls and sweaters from Robert Dobson in British Columbia)
- 2) My family and I (the whole family) were able to enjoy a vacation in New Hampshire by the sea (thanks to a special friend Marielle)
- 3) I continue to be coached by M Ken Beach for ministry and SEMBEQ studies....
- 4) two new believers were baptized this summer (Roland & Denise)
- 5) the following people made a decision for the Lord and need your prayers... Vicky, Nancy, Jason, Diane, Pierette, Josephine , Stephanie...and others who are opening up to the gospel.

Let me share you a special story that I witnessed this summer. An older lady from New Hampshire was visiting our church in Sawyerville in July. Our good friend Marielle brought her to church a few times. One afternoon the two decided to come to a ladies' meeting in Sawyerville. Marielle had witnessed to Josephine many times in the past. That day they arrived an hour and a half before the meeting. We decided to spend some time discussing different things. Of course

the subject soon became the Lord Jesus and the simple gospel message of salvation. That day in July will always be fresh in my memory. That afternoon Josephine made a decision to follow Christ. We rejoiced together and she left the church with a few New Testaments for her family. I explained to her that she had experienced a "new birth" in Christ. I am still amazed of the Lord's timing in Josephine's life. A few months later in September, Marielle called me on a Sunday evening to tell Annette and I that Josephine was no longer with us. I didn't understand at first and then Marielle told me that Josephine had just died that afternoon with a fatal heart attack. She was gone to be with the Lord. I thank the Lord for this special time that he gave me with Marielle and Josephine that certain afternoon in July. what an encouragement it was, and still is!

Another story I would like to share is about Jason. He made a decision for Christ earlier this summer. Jason was involved in drugs and alcohol. He is now testifying to his friends about Jesus and what has happened in his life. Jason is coming to the church on some Sunday mornings, and he also attends bible studies on Wednesdays. He has been asking for French bibles and some English New Testaments. He has been recently discipling a girl by the name of Nancy. Jason has just recently asked to be baptized next summer. Praise the Lord! He is bilingual and I believe that he has been given a gift of evangelism. The other day we took the Lord's supper together at his home. He shared how his dependency on drugs and alcohol was fading away.

This year has been very exciting for the church family. The French part of the congregation seems to be growing. Both groups are encouraging one another. We have had several bilingual services on Sunday mornings, and we will continue to do so in 2012. We have an assistance of about 50 people.

I thank the Lord for our oldest members in the English congregation. Mrs Garneau who celebrated her 95th birthday has known the Lord for 65 years and shared her testimony with both the English and French group of believers. There is also Gordon who has been coming to Sawyerville church for a very long time. He has known the Lord for over 70 years.

6) we have also celebrated the birth of three babies in the church family. David = son of Patrick and Cathy; Deborah = daughter of Fred & Melanie; and recently Nathan = son of Ghislain & Karine.

7) This month we (as a church) were able to help several families with food baskets

8) the Lord has also been using the church to give away free loaves of bread throughout the community, we receive up to 100 loaves a week, one family: One of the families who had received some bread are Philipp and Diane and their four children. Earlier this year Diane made a decision for Jesus (Christian love in action through God's love and compassion) . Diane has received regular

bread for her physical needs, but now she knows Jesus the "TRUE BREAD" for our spiritual needs.

9) we thank the Lord for Wednesday night bible studies in three locations: East-Angus; Cookshire and Sherbrooke

10) that the fellowship will continue to be strengthened within the church family (Christ's love in each one for each one) already a blessing....

Prayer requests:

1) Next year we will be celebrating the **190th** anniversary of Sawyerville Baptist Church which was founded in 1822. It is a true story about God's faithfulness and the people who were willing to follow the Lord and live their Christian faith by their obedience to His word. what a heritage we have received and what a responsibility for us to carry on the work. Without Jesus we can do NOTHING"!

2) my wife Annette, and two of my sons, Anthony and Samuel and myself will be leaving on Saturday the 24th to spend some time in Florida, (I can't wait)! please pray for safe travelling

3) please pray for my older son Francis who will remain here in Quebec (he decided to stay behind for work)

4) pray for those who are lost and without the Lord (that the Lord may lead us to them)

5) pray for spiritual growth of everyone who has accepted Christ in their lives

6) for a church project concerning improvement of church facilities to better accommodate both groups

7) for the Lord's guidance as I prepare sermons in both English and French (not always the same message) and pastoral care and visitation

As I close this letter I am sure that a few things have not been mentioned. However the church family and my own family join with me to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas (with family and friends) and a special New Year of spiritual growth in your relationship with Christ our Savior and Lord and growth in our love for one another.

Thank-you for your continued spiritual and financial support of our ministry here in Sawyerville Quebec. May God richly bless you and yours!

In Christ's love..... Michel, Annette, Francis, Anthony & Samuel Houle

