

# Blessed New Year in Christ for 2012!

Dear Friends, supporting churches, and prayer warriors,

A verse we all know well is Romans 10:17, **“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”** We've shared the Word with many, military and civilians alike, talking to them about their eternal destiny. In the end, they need to hear it for themselves and God says faith will come by hearing and receiving His Word. *Roger* is one man with whom I just started doing that, taking the audio Bible to him and letting him listen to whole chapters at once. His eyesight is weak now at 70 years old. His wife died just last year, and it seems he is now ready to listen, though his religious training was more a handicap than a help. Pray for *Roger* that the hearing of the Word will bring him to faith in Christ, as was the case with his ailing wife not long before she died, *Joy* had the joy to be with her when she made a profession of faith.



**Joy & John Gribbin**  
john.gribbin@sfr.fr

## Renewed Vision for French Military . . .



**We need more couples like these!**

**Pictured here** are *Cyrille and Amandine*, at the Thanksgiving Dinner in the Center. They are a recently married Military couple who know the Lord. It is men like *Cyrille* for whom we are praying, that their witness to French military will bring forth fruit. In our renewed vision to reach them, we're in the planning stages to present conferences on important subjects or themes: evolution-creation, cults, history, ethics, etc.--and how the Bible addresses each topic. At the latest, we hope to have our first speaker and subject ready for early Fall. Conferences like this can be a help to men like *Cyrille*, inviting fellow military to the Center to hear the Gospel and find out how the Bible speaks to important issues in our world.

**A Long Way From Home . . .** Julie's new job has taken her a long way from "home," to Houston, Texas. If home were Erie, PA, where we're from, it's a 24-hour drive; however, it's from Julie's first home here in Toulon, France, so it's about a 12-hour flight. *Joy* took that long flight to be with Julie and help her get settled. We can't go into all the details of her being hired, and the contacts she found there in Houston, but we do say **what an amazing**

**God we serve!** He has taken care of Julie - of even the smallest details. At this moment, they are still looking for the right car and the right place to live, but knowing Julie is in God's will, we're sure He will provide for those "details" too, **in His way and His timing.**

### **Knock at the Door**

I had just returned to an empty house on Jan 14 from teaching a course (Personal Evangelism) at the Bible institute in northeast France. Joy was already gone to Houston to help Julie, so I was a bit surprised to hear a knocking at the door. Seeing who it was, I wasn't really surprised. It was Remy, good friend and a French military whom we've mentioned before. We have known him since 1992. Many times I've shared the Gospel with him, but every time he politely listens and seemingly turns a deaf ear to everything we tell him. But he keeps coming back and knocks on our door! Before he left, I gave him a Christian calendar that proclaims the Gospel as well. This year **we're asking all of you** to put Remy high on your prayer list for lost souls here for whom we're praying. He's one of many and **we're praying that 2012 will be a harvest year among French military**

#### **PRAYER AND PRAISE (cut out and put on your refrigerator)**

1. Praise the Lord, *Roger* finally seems open to hear the Word, though he can't read it. Pray for his salvation as well as for his daughter, who is in her 30's.
2. Praise that *Remy* came by the house, for rarely do we have the opportunity to visit him at his apartment. Pray for his and his wife's salvation.
3. We're thanking the Lord for Julie's new job, though quite far from Pennsylvania or France.
4. Pray for those who will have attended our church's Bible conference (Jan 20-22) on spiritual maturity. Pray they will take their Christian walk and growth seriously.

**We especially thank those churches and friends** who sent special money gifts for Christmas. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity. It sure humbles us when we realize how hard the present financial crisis is hitting people today. An example of how it is in France: our full tank is close to 16 gallons, costing us about \$107 at the present exchange rate, close to \$7.00 a gallon. At home in Erie, PA, it's about \$3.45 a gallon. So we know a bit of what you are going through these days. Thankfully, the crisis doesn't affect God's ability to provide, or His grace in working through you to us. For that **we thank God and we thank you for your faithfulness in giving.** We're praying that God, by His grace, will use those gifts to bring His "unspeakable gift" (2 Cor 9:15) to lost millions here.

Thankful for the Cross,



*John & Joy*

**John & Joy Gribbin  
Toulon, France**

**Sending church: Bethel Baptist Church ~ Erie, Pennsylvania**