
Ministry and family news

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News from the Morris family

June 2025



Dear Bill,

As you may recall from our January newsletter, we used the analogy of the Vendée Globe yacht race to describe our life and ministry since December. The winner of the latest edition arrived on January 14th, while the last-place finisher crossed the finish line almost two months later. That competitor would undoubtedly have wanted to perform much better. However, the series of unfortunate and unpredictable events that he and his boat experienced during the race were beyond his control. That kind of experience, where one difficult, painful, or frustrating event follows another, can happen to anyone, even Christians.

Despite everything we've been through since last January, including recurring health problems for both of us and important computer problems (to mention just two of the difficulties we've encountered), we've managed to "stay in the race." Praise God, we also experienced fruitful times of service and received encouraging news of answered prayer.

This letter is longer than usual because it's impossible to share all the news, answered prayers, and prayer requests in just four paragraphs! Additionally, health problems in April and May prevented us from writing to you sooner.

I teach this subject in professional training programs, and I would like to incorporate some of the concepts you taught.



This request came from a Christian woman who attended the training session, "Listening and Communicating Effectively," that Richard gave at a church in Dijon last February. The church's pastor had asked Richard to teach the elders, department heads, and members of the counseling team how to listen effectively to people visiting the church or receiving counseling.

Richard had never previously taught on this particular topic, so it took him many weeks to pray, consult professional websites, study biblical accounts of Jesus' ministry, and write. All this to create a two-hour training course.

As the participants were believers, the first source they learned from needed to be the One they are called to imitate. Therefore, we examined the various ways the Lord Jesus listened to and communicated non-verbally with those who came to Him, as well as the fruit that results when we imitate Him. Next, we discovered different types of non-verbal communication used in cultures worldwide. We concluded with the fundamental difference between “hearing” and “listening” (there is a significant distinction between the two in French). This was an essential part of the training, as the degree to which we listen to another person will influence our reaction to their situation or need.

It was at the end of the training that this lady approached us with her request. We took it as proof of the quality of the teaching and praised God for guiding Richard through the preparations and writing.

Of course, we did more during our stay in Dijon. On Saturday afternoon, Richard gave a teaching on prayer, to which members of Dijon’s other evangelical churches were invited. Then, he preached on Sunday morning.

From time to time, my 102-year-old grandfather disappears into the forest. No one in the family knows what he’s doing there. When he reappears, he’s in better health than before. However, every time he goes, the health of several of his sons deteriorates.



This comment was made during a counseling session with a couple from an island where magic is widespread. It came up during our weekend with a church in Mennecy, a town south of Paris. The husband confirmed his wife’s comment as he had seen it with his own eyes. She then asked, “Could my grandfather be using witchcraft to affect his sons’ health to improve his own?”

Honestly, answering that question requires knowledge of the magical practices that people do on that island, as well as first-hand experience of the power of magic.

Despite his over thirty years of experience dealing with spiritual beings, occult powers, and sorcery, Richard could not answer in the affirmative, as he had never heard of such a practice before. At the time, the best advice we could give them was to pray for the Lord’s protection over the couple, their children, and extended family members. We also advised them to limit all contact with the grandfather.

Over the weekend, we had four counseling sessions with people the pastor felt needed our experience and discernment. On Saturday evening, Richard taught about the negative influence of the spiritual world. Then, on Sunday morning, he preached on “Freedom From Spiritual Strongholds.” After the service, we spent nearly an hour answering questions from individual church members.

Our daughter is in a difficult situation. She needs to be cared for by mental health professionals as well as by professionals

trained in deliverance.

These were the initial words of an email we recently received from a Christian family requesting Richard speak to their adult daughter, “J.”, who has been diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia. However, recent events led them to believe that she was also under spiritual attack. Distinguishing between spiritual attacks and the symptoms and causes of schizophrenia can seem like an impossible task. In “J.’s” case, though, her father witnessed one of those attacks, which prompted them to seek help from someone outside the medical profession. The following is shared with “J.’s” permission.

During their first meeting, Richard determined there was something more than “J.’s” illness at work in and around her. Since most of the attacks happened at night, he gave her a special prayer based on Psalm 91 to pray before going to bed at night. We often share this prayer, which proclaims God’s protection against the works and presence of the enemy, with believers under spiritual oppression due to its effectiveness. He also asked the entire family to undergo a spiritual inventory to ensure there were no unconfessed sins from the past or present that had “opened a door” to the enemy in “J’s” life. He also explained how to confess and renounce any such sins to close any “open door.” Through this work, “J.” realized that she had never confessed several serious sins she had committed.

What was encouraging was that shortly after that meeting, the medical staff caring for her noticed a remarkable difference in her. While this could be the result of her taking her medicine daily, it could also be the “firstfruits” of a work of sanctification. In our next meeting, we will discuss the sensitive topic of a lack of forgiveness in various aspects of her life, including her inability to forgive herself. This could also be the source of the spiritual attacks she has been experiencing.

A long-awaited answer to prayer.

You may remember that we have often written about Laëtitia, a French woman who was deeply involved in the occult and demons. She had begun moving closer and closer to a full life in Christ, yet never wanted to give up her occult power. Just over a year ago, she severed all ties with the church and the members of the counseling team who had cared for her.

A few weeks ago, we were informed that Laëtitia had returned to the church. She had cut off all contact with the church because she had entered into a relationship with an unbeliever, but she continued to pray to God. One day, she began to reflect on her situation and clearly heard God telling her that she had to leave this man. She ended the relationship and then met with a member of the team that had been working to purify her life of the demons that had surrounded her for many years.

There are times when we may feel that God doesn’t hear or answer our prayers, but that’s just our personal interpretation of the situation. We do not always know what God is doing “behind the scenes” or preparing. In Laëtitia’s case, God did hear the many, constant prayers for her, but chose to act when she would be most responsive to His calling.

FAMILY



Timothy : Everything continues to be “full-speed ahead” for him. A few weeks ago, he was in D.C. for an international conference, where he presided over one symposium and gave a presentation at another meeting. Please pray for the Lord to sustain him physically, emotionally, and spiritually, as his workload is heavy .

Valérie : She once again had episodes of irritable bowel syndrome, which are becoming longer and more frequent. She has an appointment in Marseille with a gastroenterologist who specializes in chronic diseases.

This appointment is scheduled for **August 22nd** unless another patient with an earlier appointment cancels. In the meantime, she will see a second dietician who has the same syndrome. Please pray that she will be strengthened and encouraged in her health.

Richard: The damage caused by polyarthritis to the finger joints is a constant source of discomfort, at times even severe pain. Although the Lord healed him of the polyarthritis, the damage is still present. Over the past two months, the pain has worsened to the point where the fairly strong painkillers he takes are often not effective enough. During such times, it frequently becomes extremely difficult for him to write, type, or do any manual work. Pain elsewhere in the body regularly prevents him from sleeping. Please pray with him that the current pain level decreases so he can return to the ministry projects that have been put on hold.

Marie-Anne: After much searching, she finally found a studio apartment that matched her budget and location preferences. However, the agency is making her fill out form after form and provide more and more information, supposedly because the apartment falls under D.C.’s rent control program. Please pray that God intervenes quickly so that she can move in soon.

Jonathan: In our January newsletter, we requested prayers for him to find new employment quickly. However, his employer offered him a new “mission” in Annonay, a job he had been hoping to get. As Annonay is more than an hour’s drive from Lyon, he stays during the week in a studio apartment in Annonay. He returns to his apartment in Lyon on weekends. Please pray for the Lord’s protection over him as he travels back and forth between Lyon and Annonay.

Thank you again for your prayers and support for our ministry and for those we serve.

Richard and Valérie

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