



News from Allen and Deedee Iobst

24 November 2020

Dear friends and family, ***Happy Thanksgiving!***

Like you, I'm sure, we are very grateful that this holiday season is finally upon us!

Even with everything that has happened this year, we have a lot to be thankful for.

We are thankful that we have now been in France for a year, and that God has blessed our new home and our work here. It has been especially encouraging for me to be able to work closely with the rest of our area's finance team at our area office! I am happy to report that we have finished the installation of our new financial computer system, not only in our country, but in our ministries throughout the world. It has been a blessing to help train our staff and provide troubleshooting support for its use. Like me, Deedee is also thankful to have a dedicated office space as well as fellowship with co-workers serving in similar roles. We are also grateful for the volunteer work opportunities that Phoebe and Josiah have each had at the office in the times before and between France's lockdowns.

Our ministry team is still based in Spain, but thanks to the reliable technology to which we have all become accustomed, we meet with them virtually more often than we used to meet in person. We thank the Lord for all His provision, including continuous electricity, internet, and videoconferencing! We are also very thankful for our health and safety, which we do not take for granted.

Recently, our ministry team decided to change its name from "Port Cities" to "Beyond North African Borders," to better reflect the scope of our outreach. Our focus has always been working with the Operation Transit Partnership to offer God's Word to North Africans traveling through the ports. In recent years, however, our team has expanded our ministry to include bringing the gospel to North African people within their communities throughout Europe, beyond their home countries' borders. Our team trains local church members to pray for and share their faith with their North African neighbors and friends. We praise God that this past year, 70 Spanish church members took part! Now that these training seminars have become webinars, many more people are participating. Our team also brings the gospel to North African students in Europe; our outreach and follow-up has not been hindered by moving on-line. Every month, our team is seeing people make decisions to follow Jesus!

We thank the Lord for our family, and we are happy that we can catch up with everyone via long video calls. We are also cautiously optimistic that we will be reunited with Thomas for Christmas! His flight is scheduled to arrive here on December 5th, provided all his paperwork and medical test results are acceptable. He will still have all his classes and exams online, through mid-December. *Please pray that everything goes smoothly!*

Finally, we thank God for you, and for all your help and encouragement, which has helped to bring us through this year and accomplish all our work! ***God bless you!***

Together we serve,

Allen and Deedee