

## QUEBEC MISSION

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Dosquet, February 25, 2017

Dear brothers and sisters

My hope is that this report finds you in a healthy condition. The mirror tells me a lot of things that I would prefer to ignore and so does the Bible. But the difference in these two observations is that spiritual changes are possible. Sadly, spiritual changes are seldom discussed in our daily meetings with people.

I made a trip last fall that brought me to Tupelo MS and then to St. Catharines, Ont. Since I came back, a lot of work ahead was waiting to be done.

From last November until now, I have been busy studying with two young women, one of whom was baptized on January 4 this year. The work was very long because of their moral and religious aberrations. One of them (Maude) was among the Jehovah's Witnesses. She did not believe in the divinity of Jesus and she thought the end of the world was for February 16 this year.

Her sister Angella progresses in the knowledge of the morality taught in the word of God. She begins to understand who she is and that following the example of the world is not the freedom she believed. She really needs our prayers.

Both are accustomed to texting and are waiting for immediate answers to their questions. Waiting an hour for an answer seems an eternity for them. When the Jehovah Witness knew that she was studying with me, one of their young members kept texting with her day and night to mix her up with passages out of context.

Since I have been teaching, I have never had so many problems to study with someone. I must tell you that one of the worst problems is the credulity that people give to everything that is conveyed on the internet. This is true for all kinds of subjects as well as the religious side.

Instead of letting the Bible judge religious content on the web, people do the reverse and question the word of God if it does not correspond with what they view and conceive as truthful.

It would be interesting if we were asking for so much evidence for all that is conveyed in this world that we are asking for the word of God.



Maude, few weeks before her baptism

So Plessisville had the pleasure of welcoming this new sister into Jesus Christ. But the work is not finished, it has just begun. A new birth without follow-up is often worse than never being born. I put Maude in touch with a young Christian in Paris. It is not always easy in Quebec for young Christians to find a soul mate in the Christian community. For the months following a new birth, one should not think that one hour of study per week is enough. Some people who are accustomed to personal study may do so, but most people in Quebec do not study the Bible themselves. The reason for this is that they were taught to them that only the priest had the power to fully understand the scriptures. I remember that in the 1950s it was said that if you do not have someone to explain the Bible to you, you could go crazy.

Things have changed over the past twenty years, but it seems that this concept is deeply rooted in the collective consciousness.

Even if we have nomenclature, it is interesting that people are motivated to learn in biblical classes where they can ask questions or have the pleasure of challenging the teachings.



The work in the Quebec assembly is going very well. We are studying James' book. I have never seen a book so short of raising so many questions. It seems that the marriage between faith and works required good teaching in the time of the apostles, and so it is today.

The last Sunday of in October was a special day, and we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Quebec assembly. Members of Plessisville and Sherbrooke were also present. Since Louise and I were the oldest members, a lot of memories came to the surface. I need not tell you that without the patience of the Lord, my wife and my brothers and sisters, I would not have been present on this 50th anniversary. It took me a lot of work to assemble the documents and photos covering the activity of the assembly since 1966. But the joy and attention in the eyes of the members during the presentation on a large screen were for me a large reward

Apart from Montreal, the work of evangelization in the province of Quebec originated by the teaching that the members received in the assembly of Quebec under the influence of the late Jerrel Rowden. Jerrel spent 27 years in Québec teaching, preaching, translating and printing materials for the francophone world. No matter how we acquire our training in life, it is important not to forget those who worked for our education in the first place. There are far too many people in the star world that we live who forget that we are not self made man.



Arrival of members for the 50th anniversary in Québec City

Sherbrooke.

Sunday, January 8, we had a special service in Sherbrooke. Yves Boucher who was my right-hand man in the congregation decided after long reflection and prayer, to begin an assembly at Lawrenceville near Valcourt where is located the head office and the plant of Bombardier where he works. Yves has been a faithful and irreproachable servant of the assembly since 1997. But traveling from Lawrenceville to Sherbrooke with his wife who is handicapped began to weigh a little heavy.

Yves has never missed a biblical class or service and he has the necessary training to do a good job there. He also has two members, Christian and Solange Mercier who will join them as they remain in their neighborhood. For this special day, the assembly of Plessisville came to join them to greet their departure and encourage them in their new mission. My work with the members of Sherbrooke will continue as usual and I'll occasionally travel to Lawrenceville as requested.

Saguenay, Lac St-Jean,

The work over there has been divided upon a disagreement concerning the construction of a meeting place. Both parts have contacted me to share their problems using bible verses to make their points. I had to tell to both of them that the bible verses were used out of context. It seems evident that a group will work in the Lac St-Jean region and the other group will be concentrated in the large city of Saguenay. The town of Saguenay is the result of the agglomeration of three cities (La Baie, Chicoutimi and Jonquière) where lives the majority of the population. Once the practice of mutual excommunication is lessened, the two groups will surely realize that the practice of communion is more profitable for the work of the Lord in the region. It is a fairly large region that can accommodate and benefit from several assemblies.

Guiana

No permanent workers have yet been found for French Guiana. But we are working step by step in this direction. The receptive community is made up of immigrant Haitians. Creole in addition to the French language is a necessity for effective work in this country. Aside from Haiti, francophone work in the Caribbean is neglected.

For the rest of the mission points with which I work, everything unfolds as usual with communications by phone and internet and visits as needed.

As in all past years, one of the biggest tasks is listening to many psychologically distressed members. For the past 20 years, I have been accessible 24 hours a day by telephone and internet. Young people are used to communicate by texting and if you do not reply within minutes, they believe that you are not interested in them.

The world we live in seems worse than the world we lived in 50 years ago. But I think a grumpy man can see life that way, but not a Christian. The man or the woman who is founded in the Lord looks at life with faith, hope and love (1 Co. 13:13). I believe that talking about the "good old days" is one of the

most insidious sins that many Christians have difficulty recognizing (Eccl. 7:10). This paralyzes us in the advancement of the gospel.

I believe that reality is the more we advance in age, the more difficult we have to deal with life. Instead of criticizing the life around us, we should thank God for keeping us alive to serve Him and bringing light to those around us. I would say even more, we should thank God for allowing us to observe the imagination of man and science, that gives us great tools, if we want to use them in the service of his Glory.

One can easily become grumpy in the middle of the forties. The Holy Spirit has worked hard since then to hang a smile on my face, so that the world does not see me coming as a judge condemning the world in which he lives. (Smile)

But to do this, the Spirit had to use tools. Your spiritual and material support has been a source of encouragement and a new breath in the pursuit of helping members and non-church members to be enlightened by the word of God.

My wife and I sincerely thank you and we are aware of your patience and all the efforts you have made to keep us at work. In the province of Quebec, many seem to have rejected God with Catholicism, as is often said, "throwing the baby with the bath water». Adapting God's word to the taste of people would surely give more results, but I am not an expert in this field. I like the Noah's way of preaching

May God bless you all.

*Yvon and Louise Beaudoin*

My grandfather's name was Noah Rousseau. He fought in the First World War in Vimy, France. He lived on a land near of Kamloops B.C. when he voluntarily entered the first pioneer regiment and embarked for France on 8/3/16 and landed the following day. I don't remember him, but my mother told me that he enjoyed feeding me with bananas crushed in brown sugar. He died in 1952, when I was 2 years old. He had the same birthday than me, April 25<sup>th</sup>. When people asked him how it was in the trenches, he lowered his eyes and bit his lips unanswered. I would have liked to know him.