A new year has begun and we all are hoping and praying for an easier year than the last one! There were a lot of challenges in 2020 but we know that all things work together for good to them that love God. In the midst of all the difficulties, God's good plan is being accomplished. I'm thankful to report that we have seen spiritual fruit in the ministry here in Quebec. We have a good group of new believers who are growing in the Lord as well as a group of mature believers who are helping disciple them in the faith. We have a weekly new-believers class to establish them in the Word. We need your prayers now more than ever though, because the current situation here in Quebec makes it difficult for the church to gather at a time when we need it the most.

The Covid-19 restrictions here have not been friendly to churches and the constantly changing rules have been a headache for everyone. I prefer



not to even talk about it, but I would like you to know how to pray for us. Back in the fall, churches were restricted to gatherings of 25 people. Other measures already in place were also increased. Private gatherings were forbidden and restaurant dining rooms were closed. Starting at Christmas, stores that were deemed non-essential were also shut down and products deemed non-essential at the big box stores were barricaded off from shoppers.

Starting January 9, a nightly curfew went into effect and churches were ordered to suspend services. After receiving push-back from the religious community, the government recently gave an allowance for gatherings of 10 people for religious services. The Quebec government is also calling for Canada to impose more restrictions on

international travel. The number of Covid hospitalizations in the province (population 8.5 million) peaked at around 1,500 a few weeks ago and is now around 1,100.

It is likely that the long-term economic repercussions of these restrictions will hit-hard here. We are already seeing a permanent increase in prices for many commodities. Many are having a hard time coping as the stress mounts from the social isolation and restrictions compounded with financial hardship. Thankfully we have had a relatively mild winter but the short days make this time of year tough. Please pray for us as to be able to stay healthy and strong in the Lord so we may be able to minister to people in this time.

We pray that God will use season of difficulty to open the hearts of people to the hope that is offered through Jesus Christ. We continue to have new visitors coming to church and have been able to reach a new audience through our live-stream services that we began last year. We have been able to develop a good relationship with our neighbors who are out in the neighborhood more often now. We've recently had good opportunities to present the gospel and engage in spiritual conversations, and we pray that our love and concern for them will be evident in our interactions with them.

Our family is doing well and the Lord has blessed us with good health so far this winter. We are thankful for all of your prayers and faithful support! A special thanks to all who sent cards



and special Christmas gifts. We are constantly amazed at the way God takes care of us through your generosity. We pray that the fruit here will abound to your account!

