



*after*

## Gerald and Marguerite Pauley at LA VIEILLE ÉGLISE THE OLD CHURCH (1840)

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*before*

**From Marguerite:** This is a follow-up letter on the events of the last months.

For several months it seemed to me that Gerald was very pale and declining in energy, but I thought he was just slow in recovering from the heart attack and stroke he had before. I had to go for an eye exam that required drops that enlarged the pupils. Gerald was with me to drive home. He reads in the car while waiting for me (shopping, appointments etc.) Before I went into the building he said, "I am having a funny pain in my shoulder and chest." We had moved furniture the evening before, so I sympathized and left. **As I was going through the first tests I had a sudden stab of fear.** I told the optometrist the situation and said that I thought I should take him to emergency. She said "Go quickly!"

We drove 40 minutes to Saint-Jean, got a wheel-chair and found the emergency. I just said, "My husband is having a heart-attack." Immediately he was taken to a room in the emergency. The cardiologist came and ordered blood tests, scans and ex-rays. The blood test showed that he had lost over half of the volume of blood! During the next hours he was given 6 packs of blood. He had a slow bleed somewhere. They found it by the scans the wall of his colon and repaired it. The cardiologist said, "That was close." He is once again in recovery mode, but he is looking good and clapping around doing chores.

**Do you remember** that we first went to Africa? There was a "coup-d'état" and we escaped. We looked for a field where French is spoken and we would be needed to start a church. The Mission Board suggested Canada—which was a shock. We had not realized that Quebec is a country within a country, and the official language is French.

**Do you realize** that if the Lord had put us in another place in Africa or another French-speaking country, Gerald would be dead! I could make a long list of the times when he was saved by the excellent medical care here in Quebec. We pay for prescriptions, the optometrist and the dentist. Everything else is covered!

**We love Quebec as a place to live** (we could do with a little less snow, ice, high winds, etc.) We really like and enjoy the people, our friends and neighbors, saved and unsaved. We are so grateful to have been placed here by the Lord. Our hearts are heavy when we see what wonderful people there are around us and very few of them know the Lord or even realize their need. They are good people—and they believe they deserve a good life here on earth and a good after-life. They think that God should act in their favor but they don't need a Savior or a church.

**Help:** The Lord has sent help! Not what we asked for or expected but certainly what we need! A 26-year-old single man has come to us. His name is Clément (Clay-mahn – don't say the "t") Saint-Laurent. He is a busy repairman for a company that services commercial units of heating and cooling and is very capable in many ways. He has started a company for the summer slack time, cleaning heat pumps. He told us that for some time the Lord kept bringing us to mind and he is sure that the Lord wants him to help us physically and maybe, in the near future, in getting things ready to open the doors. **He comes after work on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, usually around 5 or 5:30, and stays the night (he has his own Condo at some distance from us).** I try to have a supper that doesn't take much preparation and we give him our list of needs and wishes and he very rapidly takes care of things—He even takes care of the garbage or the recycle trash on Monday, which is hard for us, especially in the winter. We have to wheel a large container down the long driveway to the road.

**Clément is easy to have around and we enjoy having him,** but the best thing about him is his love for the Lord and His Word. Our conversations are mostly about the Christian life and about Bible passages. We usually are on the same page. **We have a time in the Bible every night at 9:00 and he joins with us.** We sing a couple of hymns, one or two in French and another in English (Clément prefers French, but is fluent in English). We are reading through the Bible and are in Isaiah. We each read a portion of the evening's chapter or chapters and then pray together.

I have to insist that Clément allow me to do my own work. He jumps up to take care of anything I might try to do in the way of effort. We will still do what we are able to do. We need Clément for the things we cannot do or that are too physically demanding. His job is physically demanding and the winter weather is hard on even a young man when he is working on the roof of a commercial building! I finally had to say laughingly, "Clément! Sit!" when he jumped up to help me. We all laughed, but that is my watch-word. I want to watch out for the wonderful gift that the Lord has sent us! **Remember him when you pray for future workers on the mission field.** He wants to preach. He says the Lord is calling him to do what we have been doing, with one difference. He says, **"I want to shake people up!"** His mother has been saved for a while and his father was saved about 2 years ago. His sister has not yet yielded to the prayers and testimonies of her family and is going down a path that is particularly obnoxious to the Lord. **Pray, please!**

With love, appreciation and thanksgiving, *Marguerite*

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