



BIG STORMS IN 2019 !!



Ursy, December 2019

Dear friends,

Since our last newsletter a year ago, life hasn't all been smooth sailing.

⇒ *Major health problems for Dominique*

In mid-February, what we initially thought was the flu turned out to be something much more serious. After already having been treated by his doctor, Dominique had less and less breath support and had to stop to rest after climbing only two stair steps.

After going back to the doctor, Dominique was sent to the emergency room of a regional hospital. A short time after, he had to be rushed by ambulance to a different hospital because his state was rapidly worsening. Doctors planned to put him into an artificial coma for ten days...

Having arrived at intensive care ready for battle, Dominique was treated with great skill and love from all his caregivers.

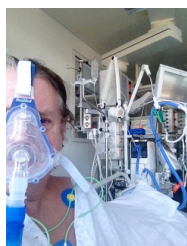
But his state was quite serious. Verdict: atypical double broncho pneumonitis, with ARDS (Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome). We'll spare you the details, but he could hardly breathe and his lungs were severely infected; he was in a high-dose oxygen mask, tons of drugs to fight the illness, several days hovering between life and death, but we were narrowly able to avoid the artificial coma. His body had taken a serious blow.

He spent ten days in intensive care, plus a total of 50 days in three different hospitals, 24 hours a day on oxygen, under constant care.

But from the first moments, and even now, an indescribable peace fills his heart, the peace of God which surpasses all things. He didn't even need to ask for it – God gave him this gift! What love!

May this encourage all those who are going through difficult times:

God is there!



Since then, things have evolved, but very slowly. He still needs oxygen, but only when he has to make an effort. He goes regularly to physical therapy, sees several specialists, etc. It's been full-time sick leave since mid-February. He has stopped all pastoral activity, and his voice being affected and not having enough breath, we have had to take a pause from our Jude 25 concerts. After receiving advice from the doctors, we decided to cancel all our concerts, conferences and tours in Switzerland, in southern France, in Africa and other places for all of 2019. This makes over 40 concerts that have been canceled (without counting all those that would have been added in the course of the year). But we have had only testimonies of love during this hardship. As Elsbeth so aptly remarked: *"We have been hit hard by a violent tsunami... but afterward followed a volcano of love."*

⇒ *Then it was Elsbeth's turn*

Then in July, it was Elsbeth who was hospitalized in the CHUV (the university hospital of Lausanne). Already a while back, a benign tumor had been detected near the thyroid. For a long time, we hesitated to have an operation, as the surgeon would have to come close to a sensitive nerve and Elsbeth could have lost use of her vocal cords... and therefore lose her beautiful voice!

But it was urgent, so she underwent this very delicate operation. Fortunately, everything went very well, and her voice is still intact. Thank you, Lord!

She needs some time to recover, but now everything is in order and she was able to return to her activities, to numerous church visits, to her volunteer work in Lausanne's psychiatric hospital, to share the Good News in the street, etc.

⇒ **The latest tour in Senegal**

In December 2018, before all of these events, we went to Senegal. We went firstly to encourage the on-site team, but in the end we once again did a concert tour in prisons. We won't go into detail, because we already wrote our last letter after a prison tour the previous year. But in short, it was a very useful and effective tour. We also visited prisons where we had never been before.

Very good welcome everywhere by the directors and the guards, who told us that we had opened the gates of heaven for them, and that the prison doors would be wide open for us if we were to return! And what an openness, what joy in the prisoners' hearts!

Rita, who was in charge of the team, returns regularly, and she has testified that during our concerts, many prisoners have given their hearts to Jesus.

We remember that this country is 97% Muslim, but very open to the sharing of the gospel.

Pray that this lasts, and pray for the team who works on-site.



Then in January, we gave an interview for "Radio R" on the occasion of the 40th year of existence for Jude 25.

⇒ **Where are the needs?**

Several people have questioned us about our finances.

You know that we do not receive a fixed income for all that we do with Jude 25, and that it's thanks to your support that we are able to do it.

Even if it's true that we haven't been on top of things with concerts this year, there is still all the rest of Jude 25's work that goes on behind the scenes. The next step is to make a German version of Dominique's book "When the glass turns red" available for download on the internet.

Regarding a return to concerts and conferences, it will take place gradually once Dominique has regained his strength and his capacities. *In time, you can follow us and our trips under the heading "concerts" on our website www.jude25.ch.*

It goes without saying that in addition to our "normal" needs, these hospitalizations and the long illness have led to unexpected expenses...

Although insurance (already very expensive to begin with in Switzerland) covers a part, there are always surprises. But we know that *God has everything under control*, including this.

If you would like to help us, you can find practical information at the bottom of this letter, or through PayPal or credit card on our website www.jude25.ch.

We won't go into too much detail on this subject, but *if you wish further precision*, don't hesitate to contact us by e-mail: info@jude25.ch

So here is our latest news... until next time!!

Thank you again for all the ways in which you have supported us,

Thank you to all of you who pray for us,

And thank you to the God of Love, who holds our lives in his hands.

**AND, AT THE END OF THE YEAR,
WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY 2020 WITH GOD'S BLESSING.**

Dominique & Elsbeth Fontaine / Jude 25

