



# The Hines Family

*Missionaries to Québec*

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Dear fellow-laborers,

Happy new year to you all. We had a nice time of fellowship as we tried to reach visitors again this Christmas season. We've done a variety of different things in the past: Christmas plays, a talent show, caroling, banquets, etc. This year we had a good turnout for the church service followed with a meal together at a restaurant. At this banquet I saw lots of Christian growth from some of our members as they really did a great job reaching out to the visitors. It encourages me to see the spiritual growth in our church. It also thrills me just to hear some of the prayers that go up at our prayer meetings especially from some that are praying publicly for the first time. During one prayer meeting different individuals went around the room testifying to how much they appreciate us and our little church being here. Words can't describe how much that means to us.

On the contrary, Christmas evangelizing this year also left me stunned. I've often said the hearts here are colder than the weather. I mean it too. A young lady working at a gas station turned down a Christmas tract I offered her. The tract was titled "Silent Night" with a picture of Bethlehem at night. So I tried as nicely, humbly and warmly as possible once more just to see if she'd change her mind... after all, it is Christmas, you know! She scowled at me and told me that if she got a hold of the tract she'd burn it. I wasn't expecting that. In all the years I've handed out tracts, I can't say I've heard that one too often! Shocked I said, "You know it's the Christmas story... about the birth of Christ." She knew it - *she was just full of the Christmas spirit* (in stark contrast to the Holy Spirit!).

Just before the Christmas holidays I handed a guy a tract at his home and he glared at me, staring me down, as he brazenly put it in his garbage. What hate! I prayed and felt the Lord was urging me to speak up so I said, "I hope the Lord doesn't do the same thing with you one day, sir." He blew a gasket. But I meant that. I really don't want the Lord to throw people away into His garbage can of Hell (Gehenna by definition). I wasn't being mean or sarcastic. He needed that message. What he did with that tract is a definite picture of what the Lord will do with him one day if he doesn't get right. Heart breaking.

During the holidays a lot of people get laid off. It's really too bad. But one brother in the church took advantage of it and has gone out frequently with me passing out tracts. What a blessing! At the mall we handed out candy canes and Gospel tracts politely wishing people a Merry Christmas. The mall is my "fishing hole". I've been going there for years now. People even recognize me. And, by the grace of God I plan to keep on going. One day in December the mall security gave us a hard time, and I stood for our rights. Finally they left and we decided to move on. Bob Jones Sr. said, "It's not how much fruit you pick but the condition you leave the garden in." I would rather leave and keep this door of opportunity open than stay and create a monster. So we decided to walk to another spot and on our way we noticed mall security still following us. Then when we looked at them they went into a door and more security came out another mall door. We decided to go walk toward them and they left and then more security came from a different direction. It was like bees on honey!! We aren't shop lifters or terrorists! "Quick call the cops!! It's Christians! Handing out the Christmas story!! *At Christmas!!!*" Is that what it's come to??! God help us. I'm not sure, but I'm guessing they had the Christmas spirit too!

Evangelization can be dangerous. You could be swarmed by security or you could slip in the rain on steps and dislocate your shoulder (like in our last prayer letter). This time the precious brother who's been so faithful to evangelize with me while he is laid off was out with me in freezing weather (20 below F). While going door to door putting tracts into mail boxes, I heard him cry out, "Ughhhh!" I turned around and there he was laid out, flat on his back. A real Quebecer, he didn't have a hat on and he had fallen on the slippery ice landing, believe it or not, right on the top of his head. Ouch. I hurt for him! Thankfully... very thankfully, he didn't crack his skull or even need stitches. He came out hurting for a while but will be OK. That being said, I do covet your prayers. It is dangerous just distributing literature up here. I don't take it for granted that in the more than a decade I've been up here I've never been hurt. Thank the Lord.

Ending on a positive note we've seen more and more visitors at church lately and that is so encouraging. They don't usually stay, but hey, it's a blessing you have to count. One Wednesday night while railing on Laodicea (teaching through Revelation) I went on and on about how sorry this age is and Christians are today. We had a visitor. This was not the night for visitors!! But as I watched this guy's face, he ate up everything I was saying as I slammed Benny Hinn, Tilton, Osteen, Rick Warren and even Billy Graham. This gentleman is a saved man from Congo. He has visited other churches here and found unimaginable problems. So far he loves the hard, old-fashioned, straight Bible preaching he's been getting here. Hallelujah! I did some real "digging" to find out concretely if he was saved or not, and he left me with a very convincing testimony. How rare. In short, Jean Paul is a breath of fresh air and a real blessing. We're thrilled to have him attending. What's more, he is from Congo. If you remember, I had the privilege of preaching in Congo last year with missionary Mike Dobbins. Low and behold he is from a town not far from where I preached! What are the chances that I would meet somebody from the same area I preached on the other side of the world this time last year??! Jean Paul is a student here and works on weekends. He is going to re-arrange his schedule so he can come on Sundays. Please pray he'll be able to. He is such a blessing.

Also, please be in much prayer for Richard and Nathalie. They've started coming to church "hit or miss" as well. I've been asking prayer for them for a long time, I know. But they've finally started coming. They're not saved yet, but I've finally got their ear. I do covet your prayers in this regard as well. They are such a sweet couple. They really love our people; and of course our people really love them. But they need to recognize their need to settle things biblically with God. With a Jehovah's Witness and Catholic background we've got some mileage to cover. Please be in much prayer about this.

Thank you again for letting us be your representatives for the Lord on the field of Quebec,

*Jason Hines*

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