

The Rags Bag!

An odd gathering of events and articles that may at times have something to do with the Ragsdale Clan and their adventures in Europe. This might include their latest musings, ministry updates, news, maybe even a song or picture that is in some way or another related to our ministry, extended family and friends. Our hope is that whatever comes out of "The Rags Bag" will not frighten, but instead, enlighten and encourage you to pray for us and TWR.



Dear Family, Friends & Prayer Warriors:

January 2020

Happy New Year!

As we write this letter, looking forward to what the Lord has planned for us, we are amazed at all that He has done. It is a wonderful experience to look back and reflect on the many ways God has shown His faithfulness. We pray that, as you look forward to this coming year, you will see His almighty hand at work in your life and those around you.

Travels and meetings...

In the space of six weeks;

- We have been to North Africa and back for a training with a local "Amazigh (Berber)" ministry team.
- Carol travelled to the US for two weeks to be with Jean Marc for his knee surgery.
- John travelled to Slovakia for five days of leadership meetings and two days of leadership training.
- John journeyed again to North Africa to meet with people who produce programs in Tachelhit and Tamazight.

We are thankful that in all these travels God has gone before us, kept us safe, and allowed us to encourage our local ministry partners and discuss with them possibilities for new media ministry.

God provides...

During all this travel, God provided a beautiful new home for us, and our shipment of household goods from Vienna arrived just in time for us to move into the new home - a week before Thanksgiving Day. The day we moved into our new home, we welcomed a German short-haired pointer named "Dan". Nicole has been wanting a furry friend ever since we left South Africa, and now she has one. He is from a rescue shelter and needed a caring home. We had asked you to pray for our visa process. John now has his two-year work visa for Cyprus which was granted the day before Thanksgiving. Carol and Nicole have now submitted their visa applications and should have received them by the time you read this letter.

Previously we had asked you to pray for Jean Marc. On November 14th, he had outpatient surgery to replace a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee. We are so thankful that the surgery went well and he is on a good path to healing and rehabilitation of the knee. Carol was able to be with him over the time of his surgery. We are deeply grateful to family and friends who assisted during the time of his surgery and recovery. He has been able to continue with his college studies during this time. By the time you receive this letter, Jean Marc will have been with us in Cyprus over the Christmas season.



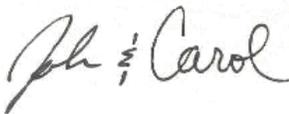
God is doing a new thing...

Those of you who can remember the early days of DC Talk will remember the words “God is doin’ a nu thang” from their 1990 album “Nu Thang”. It’s always been one of my favorite songs from DC Talk, probably because of the catchy tune and easy-to-remember lyrics. As I think about the ways God is moving in the lives of believers in North Africa, I can’t help but wonder if a season of new growth is taking place, and that God is doing a new thing. Meanwhile we continue to pray and press forward in developing new ministry tools and biblical media content that will speak to believers in North Africa.

A few weeks back, Carol and I had the privilege of sitting down with our ministry team who work among the Kabyle people of Algeria. Nicole went along on this trip to provide childcare for three young children. There have been significant challenges facing the churches in Algeria, many being forced to close due to restrictions. This is not a hidden fact. It is very public and very widely known. Yet, amid these challenges and heightened oppression, the church continues to grow. Four of the five Kabyle team members have endured significant persecution for being Christians; yet it was amazing to hear them testify to the grace and love of God in their lives as they have grown in Him and continue to minister. Pray for our small team of colleagues in North Africa as they continue to produce content and engage with listeners who have questions and are seeking answers that bring hope.

Thank you for praying for us as we continue to serve in this part of the world, and thank you for your faithful giving that allows for us to continue in ministry with TWR.

Yours in Christ,



John, Carol, Jean Marc & Nicole Ragsdale
Serving the Lord with TWR in Europe & CAMENA

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Ready to eat “Tajine” in the home of one of the North African producers, where John recently travelled.



Welcome to your new home Dan.