

The Span-Clan *Newswire*

Issue #47, December 2011

News from John, Anne, and David Span

Christmas 2011 “All I Have Is Christ”



Yesterday we visited the 11th out of our 15 partner churches and sang the song “All I Have Is Christ.” The lyrics are on the card. In many ways it is Christmas message. If He is all we have, we have all. If we don’t have Him, we have nothing.

www.crw.org

www.jspan@crcna.org

www.interserve.ca

The genuine care for our lives shown at each of these churches and by you in person has been a wonderful Christmas gift to us. You have asked about our **health**—Anne is getting stronger each day; our **plans**—yes we still hope to go to Egypt with Interserve next July ’12 to train Egyptians to reach the Middle East; our **children**—Joel and Caleb at Redeemer College each finding their niche along with David adjusting to doing school in English.

Some of you have asked about our **finances**. When we hope to become officially employed by

Interserve in late February or March 2012 we will no longer receive a salary from World Missions, but will raise our own support. Assuming that all the paperwork will come together, at that time you can send gifts either to World Missions who will then grant it to Interserve, or directly to Interserve. We will keep you posted as to our partner status.

Transitions:

You might wonder about the photo on our card (or below). Shortly after our arrival in Canada this summer we received a somewhat distraught

phone call from Guinea. The pastor on the line told us in direct African fashion “Joshua is dead.”

Some of you who have visited Guinea would recognize him. He is the ex-Muslim cane-maker who loved the Christ of Christmas who had set him free. He boldly—to the point of risking his life—stood up for the righteousness and justice that the Prince of Peace brought.

One of our dearest memories was our last church service together when he prayed a blessing on our own transition from Guinea to Egypt. Then he

sang, “Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true...”

Little did we know that he would have his prayer fully answered in much shorter time than we could imagine. Joshua’s life reminds us to make the most of each day and to spend our lives for Jesus. Although he never had many earthly rewards, Joshua is certainly celebrating heavenly ones with his Master. From the life of Joshua, his family and many of our other dear friends in Guinea and Egypt we have seen that they actually live and act like, “All I have is Christ.”

www.crwmm.org

What a challenge!

Prayers:

Do pray for continued healing for Anne and for her start of a Teaching English as a Second Language Program, John’s writing in the Biblical Missiology blog and also for the St. Francis

Magazine (all on-line) and adjustments for the boys to life in Canada. Egypt too, needs all our prayers.

We wish you a blessed Christmas and we would love to hear from you.
Phone: (289)-635-3445
Our address is below.

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Grand Rapids, MI 49560
800-346-0075

CRWM Canada

3475 Mainway
P.O. Box 5070 STN LCD 1
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800-730-3490

Interserve Canada
“**Servants for the Hard Places**”

I (we) would like to support the ministry of John & Anne Span ,

- We would like to know more about the work of the Spans and how to pray for them.
- I would like to learn about reaching out to Muslims
- Here is my gift of \$_____ to support the ministry of **John & Anne Span**.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Please make checks payable to Christian Reformed World Missions You may also donate online
www.crwmm.org/donate

John and Anne Span, 6 Glaceport Ave, Dundas, Ontario L9H 7E3



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**A Christmas greeting from our house to yours
with the song "All I have is Christ" slightly changed**

**They once were lost in darkest night
Yet they thought they knew the way
The sin that promised joy and life
Had led them to the grave
They had no hope that You would own
These rebels to Your will
And if You had not loved them first
They would refuse You still**

**But as they ran their hell bound race
Indifferent to the cost
You looked upon their helpless state
And led some to the cross
And they beheld God's love displayed
You suffered in their place
You bore the wrath reserved for them
Now all they know is grace**

**[and now there are those who say]
Now Lord I would be Yours alone
And live so all might see
The strength to follow Your commands
Could never come from me
Oh Father use my ransomed life
In any way You choose
And let my song forever be
My only boast is You**

Refrain

**Hallelujah! All I have is Christ
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life**

**by Jordan Kauflin
With Sovereign Grace Music**