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Subject: Blessed Holidays!
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To: <linda.psaute@gmx.net>

Our dear Prayer Partners,

Since we're just days away from Christmas, it's time for me to send my wishes to you all for a most blessed Christmas celebration. Last season the choir sang, "He came down to my level, when I couldn't get up to His." Not really a Christmas song, but the Christmas message. This week I read in Hebrews 10, "Behold, I have come to do Your will." Jesus came to do God's will, to "take away the first in order to establish the second". I saw "the first" as religion, man's efforts and sacrifices to carry out God's laws in order to avoid punishment, and "the second" as God's grace, Jesus making the sacrifice Himself to provide forgiveness for our sins and be the Way for us to have peace with God. His Spirit writes God's laws on our hearts and minds so it becomes part of our nature, our desire, not a desperate effort to please an angry God, but a willing submission to a God who loves us so much that He came down to our level to lift us up to His. What a Friend we have in Jesus!

In November I began working again, just step by step, adding working hours gradually. In January I will begin working full-time again. My strength and energy are returning and one choir member wrote me that I appear to be my old self again. I am grateful for God's healing hand, and for allowing us to sing together again. On Monday night we had our final rehearsal before Christmas and afterwards sat together for our Advent Party. It was a blessed time. Christmas is such a good time to tell them what it's all about, and I pray God will use what was said to give new light and bring many a step further towards coming *Home*. We had a buffet and sat in a large circle eating and having great fellowship with each other. A lady, brand new to the choir, told me she'd see me again in January when we begin rehearsals after Christmas. Another one, at whose home we had one of the Bible studies, told me that though they don't want to push me before I'm up to it, she and the others are very anxious to begin our meetings to read the Bible again. I was of course SO happy to hear them asking for the Bible study, people not yet walking with God, but just beginning to learn about Him. Before everyone left, nearly all of them came up to shake my hand or hug me and wish me a blessed Christmas. One lady, new to the choir this year, said: "The Gospel choir is the best thing that happened to me this year!" This encouragement I wanted to pass on to you, those who support us in prayer, because you have such an important part in it all.

Of course one is hardly back at work before one is also confronted with *challenges*. The pastor of one of the churches wrote me yesterday that we will have to find another place to keep our choir robes, since after a renovation project at the beginning of the new year, they will no longer have room for them. So please pray that God will guide us in this. It's not as easy as it may sound, but I know God has the solution already, so I'm trusting that He'll show us what that is.

I am praying for new growth in all the choirs. It is hard for people to make a commitment to anything that requires regular attendance. Please pray that God will bring us people who can sing, and who are also prepared to hear the Good News. We will not be singing in the Allianz service in January, since we memorize all our songs and there just wasn't enough rehearsal time for that. In my last email to you I asked you to pray that God's Spirit would be in each rehearsal and that has been evident. Thank you so much for your prayers. May I also ask you to pray for a close friend of mine whose wonderful husband died in a tragic accident just a few days ago? They have supported me and the work here, and they stayed in close touch during my illness. His sudden death is a shock to all of us who know and love him.

God grant you to know the love of Christ in an ever increasing measure, and truly worship Him as you celebrate His birth.
Grateful for all your prayers,
Linda