

OUNATE-LARE January 2021 Newsletter

Dear Family and Friends,

Greetings from Normandy! We are all keeping well and like most had a very quiet Christmas. We had planned to spend Christmas in the UK with family but sadly couldn't go because of the restrictions. The Covid-19 situation in France at the moment is a little bit better than in the UK but we think it is a matter of weeks before we undergo a third lockdown here as well. We pray for God's help and intervention.

The children are still going to school although Josh and Eloise are having half classes which means they have alternate weeks at home and at school. It's a challenge and it is an unsettling situation as they prepare for their Baccalaureate this year. Joshua will be going to University next year in the UK and Eloise will be taking a gap year. Johan will be taking the Brevet exam (similar to GCSEs) this year.

Following Brexit we are in the process of applying for new residency status as well as renewing our health cover under the new agreement between EU and UK. ***Please pray with us for both of these processes and also for God's strength and energy through this unsettling time.***

MINISTRY WITH "EGLISE LE BON BERGER CAEN"

During this pandemic, like other churches we have learned to adapt and make sure no one is isolated, especially the international students among us and the migrants we are caring for. In France, since the end of November, churches have been allowed to meet in person with certain restrictions in place. We have been very blessed as a church since last September. The church has grown, mostly through people who have moved to Caen and they have brought with them a new dynamic to the church. We are so grateful to the Lord for many things.

New Church venue (cf photo). We have found a beautiful new church venue big enough to host all of us, even with the social distancing rules, and with a reasonable rent. It is a hotel conference room. We have been meeting there since November. **Worship Leaders.** We are delighted that **Seth** (British) and **Ana** (Colombian) and their 3 children have joined us recently. They are experienced and gifted worship leaders and passionate about mission. This is a big answer to prayer. We are blessed by their ministry that has brought 'something deeper' to our collective worship time. They moved to Caen in the summer and live about 10 minute away from our house. ***Please pray for them as they settle in Normandy.***

Bible Course Online. With the lockdown, people have been eager to deepen their understanding of the Bible. So towards the end of August last year, Jane and I started an online Bible course on Monday afternoons for a group of people from the church. This will continue through to May or June. ***Please pray that the course will help each person to grow in their love for God and his Word.***

Alpha Course Online. This month, working together with 4 other churches in our network, we started an online Alpha Course. It's not the same as doing the course in person, but we are counting on God's grace. It has started well with several non-Christians as well as some Christians who are young in their faith. The course will run until 24th March. ***Please be with us in prayer.***

Syrian Family We have known and been caring for this Syrian family for about 3 years now. They are growing slowly in their walk with the Lord. A, the father, planned to join us for the Alpha Course but had a sudden serious heart problem a week ago and has been hospitalised ever since. He is still waiting for further test results. With Covid no one is allowed to visit him, including family. It is very difficult for his wife who has to look after the family including a toddler and a child with special needs. **Please pray for this family that God heals the father and sustains the mother.**

Thank you for your faithful partnership and support and for praying for ourselves and the ministry here in Normandy.

May the Grace and Peace of the Lord be with you.

With Love from

Sena, Jane, Joshua, Eloise & Johan