

MARCH 2022



Dear friends,

Greetings from France. As a family we are all doing well. We are glad that our son Joshua has settled well in his first year at university and is enjoying his engineering course. He is the first one to leave the family nest and it wasn't easy for Jane and I. Eloise is taking a gap year this year and is looking forward to studying textile design at university next year. Johan is in his first year at the Lycée and will be taking his Baccalaureat in his third year. He has a lovely group of friends and is enjoying studying.

Over the last few months, by God's grace we have been able to work through the changes that have affected our status as missionaries in France. We have found working solutions and are grateful for the wise advice of others. Thank you for all your prayers.

Ministry in Caen

We are persevering with the ministry here even though it is challenging – France is a difficult mission field. We were sad to say goodbye to two of our students and the couple who led the worship. They each had to move away to other cities. We realise that we have been discipling many people but for various reasons many of them have had to move away to other places. In the midst of that God is sovereign and faithful. We also have several new people who have joined us. One of them is Jean and we would like to share his testimony.

Jean

Jean is a young man from a Catholic background. He was far from the Lord and was involved in many things that weren't good for him and didn't give glory to God. Last summer he was invited to a Catholic and Protestant worship and prayer camp in the south of France. He was touched by God, recommitted his life to him and felt God calling him to move to Caen. He joined our church in November and is doing a part-time internship with us until June. We have been discipling him and it is great to see how he is growing in his faith. He is a good musician and has been leading worship in the church. **Please pray for him to be well rooted in the Lord and to discern God's plan for him for the future.**

Evangelism

We are excited that in the last few weeks God has brought several people to us in whose lives he is clearly at work. One of them is Y, a young lady from a Muslim background. She is searching to know more about Jesus, having had some Christian friends in the past. They had told her about Jesus and studied the Bible with her. A month ago she went to the Lisieux church's café and saw the Bible verse John 3:16 written on the board. She told the people in the café that she lives in Caen and would like to know

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Sunday worship.

more about Jesus and study the Bible. Jane and I got in touch with her and she has been following the *Explore the Bible* course online and has started coming to church. **Please pray for her to come to know the Lord as her personal saviour.**

Baptism

We are glad that a student called Arthur (who has been with us for over a year) has decided to get baptised.

Please pray for him and pray too for G, who would also like to be baptised but is struggling to maintain her walk with the Lord.

Migrants

Many of the migrants we work with are overwhelmed with their problems here in France as well as with the struggles faced by their families back home. Outreach and discipleship with them goes slowly. We remain on their side to support and love them. B (the Afgan man who came to Christ back home and had to flee) is still struggling to bring his wife and child to France. This has become even more difficult with the recent situation there. The Syrian family are doing well overall and are now integrated into French culture. However the father A is still suffering from a heart condition that prevents him from working properly. In his family he is the one who has grown the most in his faith and he has decided that he wants to come to church more regularly. **Please pray for his health and for a strong commitment to Christ. Pray also for B.**

Update on our church venue

We shared with you about our project to partner with the Adventist Church in Caen in renovating their building so we can share the use of it. If everything goes well the renovation work will start in May or June and we will be able to move in at the beginning of September. **Please pray as both churches try to finalise the project. Pray for good relationships and collaboration.**

IBN bible school students

Together with a church plant at St Lô (40 minutes from Caen) we will be hosting five bible school students from Paris for a placement from **9 to 17 April**. They will be involved in the activities of both churches and will be doing various outreach events. **Please pray for them and for us as we organise their time here.**

Other prayer points

- Jane and Amy will be starting a **book club** on **17 March** as a means of outreach to a small group of women who would like to improve their English.
- The youth work through the **community Café in Lisieux** is going so well that the mayor and some of the city council members came to meet the team to encourage them and ask how the town can help. Every Wednesday around 30 young people from very difficult backgrounds come to play football and spend some time together. Many of them have stopped taking drugs and some have found jobs with the help of the café team. Please pray for the young people, the Café and for Elton who is leading the youth work there.

Thank you for your partnership, support and prayers.

Love from Sena and Jane

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