

July 2023



Dear friends and family,

Greetings from Normandy! Thank you for your prayers. As we write this letter, France is going through a time of major social unrest throughout the country due to the death of a teenage boy during a police arrest. The damage in Caen is limited compared to other big cities. We are thanking God for his protection over the Community Café in Lisieux. In the riots this weekend it wasn't damaged even though other shops around had their windows smashed. Some of the local youth that the café team work with said that they made sure nothing happened to the café! What a great testimony! Please continue to pray for France.

As a family we are all doing well. Our three children have finished their end of year exams and we are enjoying having them at home now. For Eloise, it was her first year at uni and she has loved it and made some great Christian friends. We are very grateful to the Lord. Jane and I have had a busy but exciting year and will be taking some holiday at the end of July.

We included a financial appeal in our last prayer letter and received a very generous response. Although we haven't reached the target yet, we have been very touched by your acts of generosity in a difficult time and by words of encouragement and prayers. Many thanks to you all.

Ministry in France: Caen

Last September we were sad and discouraged to see several mature Christians from the church move to other towns or countries. God in his faithfulness has answered our prayers by sending new people who have made our church 'Le Bon Berger' their home. Many of these are already involved in different ministries in the life of the church.



International meal

Please pray for them, for the couple D and D who are involved in hospitality, worship and preaching, and for X, a part-time theological MA student who joined us recently and who may do a placement with us next year.

Ministry in France: Discipleship

Our house group is still going well and is a wonderful weekly time of fellowship and digging into the word of God together. We are studying the

book of Exodus at the moment. Sena also meets with a few people including X. for one-to-one discipleship. **Please pray that church members will grow as disciples of Christ. Pray also for Y who was baptised last year and for E who came to Christ last autumn. Both are being challenged in their faith at the moment.**

Evangelism and community work in 'Grace de Dieu' in Caen

We are still waiting for the Catholic church in Caen to grant permission for us to use their premises to welcome people from the community of 'Grace de Dieu'. Meanwhile we continue to build friendships with people there and already have four volunteers willing to help with the future work in the community. This autumn Jane is planning to start a discussion group with women from the community together with others from the church. We believe God is calling us as a church to demonstrate his love in this community. **Please pray for God's guidance and direction as we move forward.**

In June we held an evangelistic event with an international theme. Since then, we have several different nationalities in our church, and we have reached out to our non-Christian international friends. People in the church brought traditional dishes and we had specialities from eight countries! It was a great moment. We had the opportunity to share the gospel message and to value one another's culture.



Church planting planning teams

Equipping church planting team (M4)

Thank you for praying for the training weekend we had in March for four new church planting teams. 35 people attended including a few guests. Sena is coaching two of these teams, one in a suburb of Paris and the other in Nantes. It is exciting to hear recently how God has been working through the team in Nantes. **Please pray for the four teams and for God's wisdom for Sena as he encourages the pastors and their teams.**

Please pray with us:

- The church in Lisieux have just sold their building and are moving into the premises of the community café, in Hauteville, a disadvantaged area of the town. **Please pray for this time of transition and that they may have an even bigger impact in the community.**
- The annual gathering of the six churches in La Source Network will be 23–24 September. Please pray as Francis, Kevin and Sena plan and prepare this event. Pray it will be a stimulating time for the churches.

Thank you for your support and all your prayers.
Love from,
Sena & Jane

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