# **Sena & Jane Ounate-Lare**

May 2025





Good Friday meditation service

Dear friends,

Greetings from Normandy! We are both fine and are grateful that our children are also doing well. We are looking forward to having them back home at different points over the summer. Thank you for praying and supporting our ministry here in France. We are encouraged by what God has been doing in our midst in Caen and how we are seeing new people coming to the church and how most members have a hunger to grow spiritually.

#### **News from Easter**

During Holy Week we had some special times of prayer and meditation with an all-age evening of worship and reflection on the cross on Good Friday. We felt that that it was a sense of unity and thankfulness to God. We had a joyful Easter celebration on Sunday but with fewer guests than previous years.

#### Refugees

Since March we have welcomed several asylum seekers, most of whom were already Christians. Their arrival has brought a positive dynamic to the church. They have brought with them a zeal for prayer that is contagious, and it is wonderful to see their faith in God despite the very difficult situations that they have each come from. We have now set up a food bank in the church to support them. Please pray for their emotional healing, for their asylum interviews and the lengthy administrative process and for Jane and I as we try to help them pastorally.

#### Post-Alpha groups and house groups

The study of the book of Philippians with the post -Alpha group (about 8-10 people) is going very well. In the group there are three new believers and three seekers: Laura, a teenager; and an engaged

couple Nicolas and Noemie. Jane and I have been sharing the gospel and doing marriage preparation with the couple since last September. We are glad to see that the future groom has given his life to Jesus and is regularly coming to church. Praise the Lord. *Please pray for Noemie and Laura that they also will come to know the Lord.* The two housegroups are going well. Jane and I alternate visits to them to bring encouragement and give feedback to the



Post-Alpha discipleship group

leaders who are doing a very good job. The group closest to the city centre is now attended by the refugees and is a place of fellowship and support.

### **Baptism**

We are currently running a baptism preparation course for Jimmy, a young single dad and T, a young lady. I am leading the course with Xavier, a young MA theological student in the church who I am training. We are excited and are looking forward to the baptism service on the **Sunday 22 June**. *Please keep this in your prayers*.



Teaching church-planters in Marseille

## **Evangelistic concert**

**Saturday 21 June is 'La Fete de la Musique'** throughout France, when open-air musical events of all sorts are organised. It is a great opportunity for churches to share the gospel and the love of God. As a church we are planning an evangelistic concert in the city centre of Caen on the Saturday afternoon. We will also be having an area reserved for children's craft activities. **Please pray for the people we will be inviting or who pass by, for the organisation and for Tom and Joanna who will be leading a small team of musicians.** May the Lord touch people's hearts and lives through the words, music and conversations.

## M4 training for church planters

We believe that one of the best ways to reach France with the gospel is through the planting of many healthy churches throughout the country. That is why I am involved in training and coaching church planting teams. We would like to thank you for praying for the church planting teams and the training we ran for them in Marseille in March. Some of them still need more team members. *Please pray for them.* 

We met Denys there, a Ukrainian pastor of a church plant in Marseille, who was attending the training. He and his family fled Ukraine at the beginning of the war. God is using him and his church to share the gospel and to support Ukrainian people in Marseille. He has also set up a ministry in the city among people struggling with drug or alcohol addiction. *Please pray for him, his family and this ministry in Marseille*.

Thank you for all your love, prayers and support for us and the ministry here. With much love and many blessings, Sena & Jane