The Nelsons in Paris



Dear Friends,

Paris, 2nd November 2025

Christians here in France were all rather shaken by a very prominent TV programme doing an 'exposé' of evangelicals a few weeks ago. There were all sorts of journalistic shortcuts, and of course they choose churches that are on the wackier end of things, but nonetheless it was upsetting to see the accusations of homophobia and emotional manipulation. Interestingly several Catholic journalists and leaders leapt to our defense, but we are all aware of needing to convince our neighbours and friends that we are mainstream biblical believers, and that our faith is based on credible historical accounts. Please pray for us all to be strengthened in our convictions and not to be ashamed of the gospel. Pray too for our churches to be welcoming and faithful with not even a hint of manipulation or of changing the gospel to suit ourselves or those around us. It is not our gospel, but God's.

Praise God for his grace to us the past few months:

- A good start for this year's **group of 25 interns supported by 2 Timothée 2,2.** It is particularly encouraging to spend time with those in Paris at the monthly workshop, and to see their humble desire to learn and grow as they serve. The first session on Philippians was very promising.
- We had a great **church weekend on 4th-6th October**, with superb teaching on the Psalms from James Hely-Hutchinson. There were lots of good and gospel-centred conversations and a number of our new arrivals were present and seem to have really embraced church life.
- The holiday club last week was exhausting but went well! 14 local families signed up their kids and lots of volunteers from church helped with the planning and the activities. Please pray for the families to come back to a Christmas service, or even a normal Sunday, and for the truths the children heard to bear fruit.
- Thank you for praying for the launch of the **Église de la Montagne** in the 5th arrondissement. Their first Sunday was wonderful, with 150+ present, many well-wishers, but also many local friends and neighbours. It has since settled to about 50-60 per Sunday, with a great student group meeting during the week too. Lucy and Nicolas are developing friendships and have started reading the bible with a few young people.

Please pray with us for the next few weeks:

- 14th 15th November in Toulouse, to speak at a women's bible conference on suffering, and also do some training with the leaders of the women's ministry there.
- 16th 20th November in Budapest for the City to City Europe church-planting conference. I have recently joined the board of CTC Europe and will be leading a couple of sessions on internships (as a way of raising up the next generation of church-planters) and on training women in our churches to be involved in word ministry alongside the men.
- **22**nd **November in Lyon** for a *Journée 2T22* (day for young people thinking about ministry). Please pray for the word to get to the right people and for good numbers at this event.
- 3rd-4th December in Marpent, for BLF Editions board meetings (publishing company)
- 7th and 14th December Christmas carol services, great opportunities to invite lots of friends and neighbours to church! Please pray for Timothée who will be preaching, and for the music team too.
- Lucie and Alex as they cope with me being away quite a bit this month. Friends will be helping out (and even moving in sometimes!) but it is a little tricky to manage. They are very supportive of the different things I am doing, but I want to be a good mum. Please pray for wisdom in my choices and for several very gifted women training in bible teaching ministry (Attalia, Camila, Eline, Marjolaine, Mariya...) who will soon be able to do a lot of what I am doing far better then me!

November and December are full of opportunities to meet up with friends and invite them along to Carol services, brunches etc. Please pray that my travelling quite a bit won't pull me away from this priority of local evangelism. We had a lovely break after the holiday club visiting family, firstly for my sister's wedding in Dorset and then up to Edinburgh to see Sam. It is such a joy having Nicolas and Lucy just a short metro ride away, and seeing them settle into married life and ministry training. It also makes my trips away a little easier. My Lucie is always thrilled to have time with her sister-in-law (and her big brother).











Above; pictures from the holiday club "We're going on a treasure hunt!" and invite to Journée 2T22
Below: church weekend away, the students playing games between sessions, Lucie with our newest church member;)
Bottom row: the first service at Église de la Montagne, preparations the day before in the church offices (Lucy baking cookies while we help Camila stuff welcome bags)







