

The Nelsons in Paris



Dear Friends,

Paris, 12th January 2026

Bonne année 2026!

We are so privileged to start this year firmly in God's hands and belonging to Christ. This is the only true security in a world which is full of conflicts, tragedies and pleasures that offer so much and deliver so little. Please pray for us to be renewed in our joy in knowing him and in serving him (in that order), so that we point to him in failures and in victories this year.

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

- God sustaining us over the busy schedule in November. It was a great encouragement to meet brothers and sisters in Toulouse, Budapest and Lyon and get a feel for the ways he is at work everywhere, not just here.
- **The Christmas carol services**, both excellent occasions with many guests, long conversations afterwards and a clear gospel presentation by Timothée (whom I unfortunately made very nervous by emphasising how important it was !). We were especially glad that the mayor of the 17th arrondissement attended, with 2 of his assistants, and was very positive.
- **Nicolas** preached for the first time at the church plant *Église de la Montagne* on December 21st, where he and his wife Lucy are interns. It was very moving for me and encouraging to see the people there.

Please pray with us for upcoming opportunities :

- **19th – 21st January** : helping on the **assessment panel for prospective church-planters** with Acts 29. There are some exciting projects, please pray for wisdom as we spend time with the couples in question.
- **23rd - 24th January** : *Transmets La Parole* conference for training women in bible-teaching
- **25th – 28th January** : **2 Timothée 2,2 Retreat** for the 25 interns and their spouses. We will be studying Ephesians and thinking about questions of spiritual health, family and ministry, discerning where to serve etc. The individual interviews are particularly important too, as are discussions over meals. Please pray for Joseph, Philip, Etienne, Debs, Peggye and I as we teach and lead, and for Catherine, Nicolas and Melanie as they lead the practical side of things (food, babies etc).
- Opportunities with my **choir in February**, as we prepare Handel's *Dixit Dominus* and Bach's *Christ Lag in Todesbanden*. I would love to have opportunities to share the gospel as we spend time together, particularly as the words we are singing are so incredible and I really believe them !
- **12th February** – **strategy meetings of the 2T22 team**, for wisdom as we plan the next season.
- **17th – 19th February** : **City to City Europe Board meetings**, but also opportunities to meet with the CTC Africa board, with possibilities of sharing French-language ministry resources and ideas.
- The final stages of publication of "*Une pépinière dans mon salon*" a book I have written on small groups (more below), as *BLF Editions* choose a cover, garner reviews and plan the communication strategy.

A couple of years ago I pitched a book to *BLF Editions*, the publishing company where I am on the board. It was a book to translate, about small group ministry (called *Insourcing* by Randy Pope), and I explained why I thought it was important to have a book on spiritual growth in small groups, why I had found that book very helpful, but also the elements that were culturally more tricky to transpose from the US to France. The committee told me they were convinced but would like me to write a book specifically adapted to French churches. That was not what I had envisaged and was well outside of my comfort zone ! A couple of years later, and with a great deal of help from my wonderful editor Philip, the book is ready. We have decided to launch it at the *Evangile 21* conference in early May, as I have been asked to lead a seminar on that topic, and it is the biggest gathering of evangelical church leaders. *BLF Editions* are hoping to be able to give a copy to every attendee. Some kind friends, who actually first gave me a copy of *Insourcing*, and have been supporting and encouraging me as I write, have offered to cover some of that cost. If anyone else would like to contribute, then I could put you in touch with BLF. I totally understand if you want to check the book is good first ! I'm sure Chat GPT could do a decent job of translating it if needed. Anyway, please pray it would be useful and would get church leaders and church members excited about growing together, as a body, nourished by God's word.

Yours because His, Laura, Samuel, Alex and Lucie xxx



Top row : The Transmets La Parole conference will be focussing on Psalm 119, with the main teaching done by Mariya, one of our first 2T22 interns ! She made this card of the key verse. Poster for choir concerts. My monthly coffee morning friends.

2nd row : Christmas lunch with guests from church. Snow in Paris !

3rd row : Conference in Toulouse in November. People arriving for Journée 2T22 in Lyon in November.

Bottom row : Christmas carols, with the mayor singing along (back to the photo !)