

# The Nelsons in Paris



Dear Friends,

Paris, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026

It is incredible to look back over nearly 25 years in Paris and see God's faithfulness. There has been much growth in the church here, numerically but also in terms of quality resources and structures to support gospel ministry. I am sure that many laboured in times when there was little progress, and so it is a privilege I need to remember when ministry is difficult. Let us "press on towards the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Jesus Christ." We haven't finished yet, and we aren't finished works yet. But Christ Jesus has made us his own (Phil 3v12-14).

Praise God for the ways he has been building his church, in answer to your prayers :

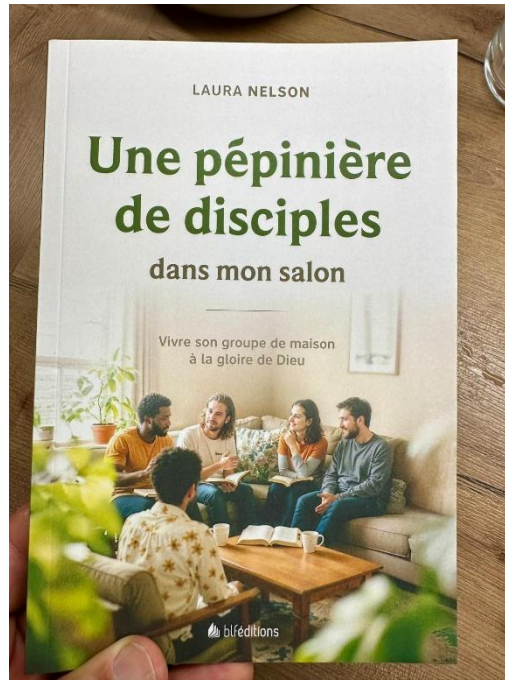
- The *Chrétiennes Engagées* conference was very encouraging, with many excellent conversations during and after the day. It was a joy to see 400 women there, of different ages and stages, grappling with God's word. The sun shone and we all spilled out onto the banks of the Seine for an impromptu picnic (photo).
- The **mission week** at church with the team from the IBB (Brussels Bible Institute) was great. I was particularly grateful for Myriam Hely-Hutchinson (an art historian married to the director of the Institute) making the trip for an excellent event where she explained the gospel very clearly and appropriately to a group of women, almost half of whom were guests. Please pray for those who took John's gospels and books away with them.
- Some good times with **local friends** for whom I have been praying for many years, including one couple who came round for lunch and the husband took me on one side at the end – rather embarrassed – to ask if he could find out about getting baptised ! I have no idea yet what is behind that, but am rejoicing in any fresh openness to the gospel and praying for him to trust Jesus if he hasn't already !

Please pray with us for the coming weeks :

- My book, *Une pépinière de disciples dans mon salon*, is being released this week, and will be given to all the attendees of the Evangile 21 conference (the French Gospel Coalition, for those who know that). I will also be leading a seminar on the same topic. The book is about the importance of church small groups as places for growing together to maturity in Christ, and how to run and participate in a way that maximises that. Please pray that the book would be useful for many French-language churches, and that as I do some podcasts, webinars etc, my focus would be on Jesus and his glory and beauty, not on myself.
- Over the coming weeks I am trying to start the ball rolling on creating a structure for helping **church plants in Paris** who need to buy property. This question is really blocking growth right now, and I will be meeting with some kind people who are much cleverer than me, in the hope that we can make some wise steps toward a solution. Please pray for the Lord to provide the right expertise and team for this project. It is maybe a way I can support church-planting as I am less busy than the pastors and planters are (I am hoping I have picked up a little bit of Edward's entrepreneurial streak).
- On **June 15<sup>th</sup>** we are holding a day for key church leaders to help us all think through **women's ministry** together, what are the challenges and the opportunities. It is a huge question that we need to work together on, but the lack of resources in most churches make it a bit of a delicate one. Please pray for clarity and courage and some real collective wisdom to emerge.
- On **June 28<sup>th</sup>** there will be **three baptisms** at church, Olivia, Siqi and Ian. Please pray for all three to be clear in their gospel understanding and for their faith to be strengthened, also for many guests to come and be struck by the gospel of grace and see the need to respond personally.

I am currently on a little break by the sea with Alex and 5 of his friends in post-exam recovery. Lucie is in Berlin for 6 weeks, enjoying the challenge, and grateful to have found a good church just 15 minutes from her host family. Samuel is also working hard for exams. And Nicolas and Lucy are well, but a little discouraged trying to find a flat for next year. Please pray for a good place near church where they can welcome their baby too (in September).

Yours because His, Laura and family xxx



Top row : My amazing editor, Philip, receives the shipment of books.  
 Middle : Easter event involving Lucie being imprisoned and then released after a short talk on Revelation 1v18  
 Bottom left : Chrétiennes Engagées lunch  
 Bottom right : Art and gospel event on Wedding at Cana

