

The Nelsons in Paris



Dear Friends,

Paris, 16th July 2026

We are heading off to the Keswick convention tomorrow, very tired after a busy period, but looking to the Lord to teach us, refresh us, and challenge us with his powerful Word. It is a treat to have no responsibilities, and the children are excited about seeing friends who encourage them in following Jesus. We are also keen to get away from the heat ! But we are nonetheless full of gratitude for answered prayer over the past couple of months :

- It has been great to get feedback as people read the **book** I wrote on small groups. I think the greatest encouragement has been seeing a good number of churches buy copies for all their small group leaders so they can all read it and think through how to lead those groups better. Filming during the heatwave and just after a nasty dental operation were not my happiest moments, but the Lord has been gracious is helping me answer questions and step outside my comfort zone with webinars and podcasts etc.
- On **June 15th** we organised a day for church leaders to help us all think through **women's ministry** together. It was an excellent time of frank discussion and gospel unity. Please pray as we write up some documents and plan some next steps.
- On **June 28th** Olivia, Siqi and Ian were baptised, the church was packed, and people stayed talking over drinks and snacks for hours afterwards. Please pray for all three to be strengthened in their commitment to Jesus, and to be able to have follow up conversations with guests who came and heard the gospel.
- **Nicolas and Lucy** found a flat quite quickly and moved in. The pregnancy is going well although the hot weather has been tough for Lucy. And Nicolas passed his exams to be able to teach maths next year. They have both really enjoyed the internship at the church plant in the 5th and they will continue serving there, with a view to going to theological college in September 2027.
- We ended our small group year as usual with a party we invited guests to. This year it was World Cup themed, with a table football tournament, US food, and a little talk linking football to the gospel proclaimed in Acts (intrigued ?). There were loads of young people and two guests asked for copies of Luke-Acts. Do pray they would read it and the Lord would open their hearts.
- In early July we took a group of 20 women to the South of France for a short **retreat studying Ruth** and honing our bible-teaching skills. It was very fun, but also impressive to see the level of hard work and ability in the talks they had prepared. Please pray that there would be a positive impact on the quality of women's groups and women's conferences as a result, and that we would continue to encourage and challenge each other in working hard on the text and on how to preach to the hearts of those we teach.

Please pray for us over the summer :

- In August we will all be on **Interaction B camp**. Although it is hard work, it is wonderful fun as we all pull together to serve the campers. I will be leading the Animef team with Jony Vaughan. Please pray for the bible studies and informal discussions with these young men and women, that we would point them to Jesus and be able to help them with their questions and challenges.
- You may remember that I am on the board for **BLF Editions**, an evangelical publishing company. As you probably realise, bookshops and publishers are struggling. After 5 years of extraordinary growth and innovation, we have hit a very rocky period. Please pray for the director, Stéphane, and for us all as we make decisions, with lots of uncertainty as to where things are going as fewer people read, and as AI dramatically changes how we access information and interact with ideas. We are not ready to throw in the towel on encouraging quality, biblical reflection on crucial subjects, but we need to be aware and adapt to reach people too. Wisdom needed !
- The **2 Timothée 2.2** board met to attribute grants to a new crop of interns. We had to make some difficult choices, but we are excited about getting to know the 28 interns for this coming year and supporting them as they discover the reality of church ministry and train alongside their supervisors. At Ternes we will have a young Belgian woman, Rika, joining us. Do pray for them as they start their internships.

We are looking forward to time with family this summer. My parents have had a tough year with several health problems, both of them in hospital for stretches. We are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in late July.

Yours because His, Laura and family xxx



*Top left : this year's Atelier 2T22 Paris interns
Top right : the ladies on the retreat (Sam and Lucie came to do the cooking !)*

Second row : studying and teaching Ruth in small groups

*Left : lunch with the student group from Ternes
Below : final home group evening (with USA v Scotland as the improbable final)*

