

The Stevenson

Ministry Update

www.frenchministries.org

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Dear praying friends and family,

These past few months have been simultaneously some of the most encouraging yet challenging times in our ministry here in France. It is one of those times when we struggle knowing what to write b/c it could go in so many directions.



The previous months have been very encouraging on a number of fronts:

1. We have had many returning visitors at church with many very responsive to the preaching of God's Word. God has clearly used this in the lives of many in this church, and it has been very exciting to see.
2. We have had many decisions for Christ with four more people getting baptized on October 9th: Mireille (28 yrs), Luzane (21 yrs), Gaston & Adrienne (50's).
3. After the restructuring of our midweek services, we have seen a significant increase in attendance. We have seen it go from about 5-10 to around 30-40.
4. A number of people are interested in joining the church and several more desire to be baptized.
5. Our renovation project made great headway with much of the interior work completed. After one year of hard work by many, the house is now just about ready for a pastor and his family to move in.



This past year has indeed been an amazing year. The challenges have been rather intense, but God has used this time to see this church take some great strides spiritually. Having gone through a number of years of spiritual and doctrinal decline, it has been exciting to see the change in so many people's lives. We have seen many either give their lives over to the Lord or else wake up spiritually. God has also used it in our lives to teach us many things.

After one year as their interim pastor, the time had come for us to decide whether or not we would continue on a longer-term basis. The vote on October 3rd was in our favor.

However, after much prayer and counsel, we came to the strong conviction that we had taken this church as far as we could and that God was leading us elsewhere. We are not sure where this will be at the moment, but we would appreciate your prayers for God's clear guidance during this time of transition.

So what's next on the horizon? Well, due to the fact that we have been in France for nearly three years and a furlough was on the horizon, we decided to take it a little early. These past few weeks have been very busy with Jared packing up the house and putting our belongings into storage.

Our plans are to spend some time of rest in the south with Rebekah's family throughout the holidays with the plan of then heading up north at a later date. Rebekah continues to homeschool Bryce and Rosalyn and to catch up on family that we have seen very little for a number of years. This has been very refreshing and encouraging for all of us.

We hope to be able to start visiting the greater part of our supporting church in the new year. If you have a desired date, please do not hesitate to send it our way.

Thank you again for your encouragement and prayers along the way!

Jared, Rebekah, Bryce, Rosalyn & Cadyn.



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