

## Patty's Praises & Prayer Requests ☺ – March 2015

Greetings from Villeurbanne! It is once again past time for me to send you an update of what God is doing here in France / Europe thanks to your prayers and a gracious God who answers!



The annual gathering of national ministry partners (from France, Spain and Germany), some church leaders (from England and Portugal), and some Encompass staff (from France, England, Portugal and Ireland) went very well.

The sense of identity is stronger and steps were taken toward increased collaboration and pan-European fellowship and resource-sharing. It was great to be able to meet at the St James Way refuge and to learn more about that ministry and to pray for Abel & Alzira, Stephanie and the church in Porto. If you'd be interested in walking the "camino" or helping at the refuge, you can enquire at:

[http://www.encompassworldpartners.org/images/Explore\\_Porto.pdf](http://www.encompassworldpartners.org/images/Explore_Porto.pdf)



I was *very encouraged* after the March 8 annual business meeting of the EPEVC (Lyon church). There were 10 baptisms and 1 wedding in 2014. Because of exceptional giving in December and a special gift, the church was able to pay off ALL loans!! The local ministry and missions budgets are almost 30% of the entire budget, including helping the three church plants! We gave a vote of confidence for Philippe Viguiet to become the new pastor for a year. We also gave a vote of confidence to three new elders – Kevin, Jean and Alain; Jean is part of the in Trévoux work (where Florent & Lori Varak will continue to be involved). Two elders stepped down: Bruno became an elder at Pont de Chéruy; Laurent P. is taking a break after 15 years but will remain involved in the church. We also approved a new deacon, Damien, who has been serving in the church for quite a while but we've made it official. Pray that we can find and hire a youth director of God's and our choosing. It is wonderful that Florent can pass the baton to Philippe in such healthy conditions. May God continue to guide and protect His Church.

The youth led a tremendous, dynamic Sunday service with music, skits and sound preaching on the theme of "Unity" on March 22 – the future of the church is indeed promising!

Easter Celebration! On Easter Sunday, April 5, the mother churches (Lyon GBC and Action Biblique) and daughter churches and future daughter church (Trévoux, Pont-de-Chéruy and Montalieu) will gather for a joint service. We are rejoicing for what God has done in recent years to build His church! (I'm sorry to have to miss this special praise gathering!) "He is risen!" - "He is risen indeed"

Lyon East house group - I love these people! What a privilege to strengthen the bonds among us through prayer, study of the Word and fellowship (over food of course)! We are growing in our understanding of the 10 Commandments and how much more is expected of us from the New Testament – not just actions but attitudes and motivation. Continue to pray for Patrick's salvation and for Annick to take the final step in accepting Christ's work on the cross for her.

Sainte Foy Bible study group – We have been able to meet a little more regularly in 2015 - thanks for praying. Mark and Joy recently joined Vincent, Liliane Anne-Marie and me for our time of sharing, prayer and study in the Word which is led by Vincent. It's a refreshing break to participate in a group of peers where I have no responsibilities. =)



Château de Saint Albain: Please pray that Karen & Bruce Beck from Ohio will be able to raise their support in order to arrive ASAP (in God's timing!) for a 1-2 year term at the Chateau. They currently have about 57% in commitments. We desperately need them as groups are scheduled at our ministry center and we don't have adequate personnel right now to adequately receive those who have made reservations. I will be spending time in Saint Albain this summer to help get up over the hump. Pray for Claire Martin (daughter of former colleagues Dennis & Jeannie) who has also been approved to serve at the Chateau and is discovering her support. Her arrival target date is the end of July. Pray for the CEP-Château committee as we make decisions, seek a ministry director and raise \$300,000 in less than 3 years to bring the Chateau up to new handicap standards imposed upon all buildings in France that receive the public. If you can help, please contact me or Trent Radbill, Ass. Dir of Stewardship at [tradbill@encompassworld.com](mailto:tradbill@encompassworld.com)

Home Ministries - March 30 – May 8: I mentioned in my last newsletter that it has been difficult to find a time to make a stateside visit because of pressing needs here. I made a proposal, and it was accepted, that I take a split H.M. – 5 weeks in the spring and another time yet to be determined. I have had little time to plan, but things are coming together. I'm excited to visit supporting churches and individuals in Southern California and I apologize in advance that I won't be able to visit those out of the So Cal area this time. The phone number at the Norwalk house where I can be reached is 562 864-4915. Of course, I can be contacted at my e-mail address. Below is my basic schedule that I will fill in with individual visits:

Mar 30	Fly to California (LYS-MAD-LAX)
Apr 1	Skype interviews with Encompass leadership
Apr 3	Grace Church of Orange - Seder/communion
Apr 4	High tea at Huntington Library
Apr 5	Grace Church of Orange / friends over for lunch
Apr 8	Grace Community Church Seal Beach - Women of Grace
Apr 11	Lunch in Santa Clarita with Karen
Apr 12	GBC Whittier
Apr 16-18	Visit family in Arizona
Apr 19	CGBC Long Beach (AM); Norwalk GBC (PM)
Apr 24	"Kiss Me Kate" – theatre with group from GCO
Apr 26	GBC San Diego; afternoon visit with cousin Nevada
May 2	Women of Grace So Cal district rally at Bellflower Brethren Grace Community Church Seal Beach - Women's tea Pictionary (they've been playing every other month for over 25 years!)
May 3	Los Altos GBC (AM); CGBC Whittier (PM)
May 8	Fly back to France (LAX-MAD-LYS) – arrive May 9

Support needs: My visit is not only to connect with current supporters to give an update and to say, "Merci", but also to renew my financial support base and to solicit prayer. By God's grace, I have been able to maintain a positive fund balance, yet I recognize the need to raise lacking support, esp. because \$13,000+ of my support is from friends in their 70's, 80's and even 90's! Lord willing, I have 7 years until retirement and I want to finish well. You can send checks to Encompass World Partners, P.O. Box 80065, City of Industry, CA 91716-8065 marking gifts for "Patty Morris support" or go to Encompass' web site to give on-line: <http://www.encompassworldpartners.org/missionaries-giving-list> (scroll down to find my name). Thanks to each one who has partnered with me during the past 32 years! I thank God for you!

This week is REALLY BUSY and I covet your prayers for strength and wisdom to work wisely.

*Patty 😊*

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