

Patty's Praises & Prayer Requests ☺ – March 2016

Dear prayer partners,

Spring greetings from France! My plate is very full... even overflowing, but I want to send a note to give you news and ask you to continue to pray for the work in France here in my corner of the world. God is answering by His grace and faithfulness! I have very much wanted to send individual notes of thanks for your partnership, prayers and financial support, but I am faced with the challenge of juggling [too] many responsibilities. In just the past two days I received 4-5 emails soliciting my help, and I have to accept my limitations and sometimes say "no." Please don't think that because you haven't heard from me in a personal way that I am ungrateful or I don't think of and pray for you; it's quite the contrary!

Church Planting Colloquium – Thanks for praying for the gathering of the Encompass church planters in February in Dijon. All the logistics came together well. 40 people working in 11 countries participated. A highlight was renewing contact and meeting for the first time "netmates" of like mind in the network. Pray for Paul Klawitter as he leads the group.



Charis Europe Network - National Ministry Partners from

Europe, some church leaders, and some Encompass staff (including myself) met for a long weekend in Dublin, Ireland in February. The focus of our time was on being disciples and making disciples. I appreciated reading the book *Trellis and the Vine* by Marshall and Payne in preparation for our time together. We had the joy of attending the Crossroads Church and meeting pastor Caleb and his wife Karen, and also NMP Caoimhe ("Queeva").

Villeurbanne church (EPEVC)

- At our annual business meeting, Philippe Viguier was officially approved as pastor of the church. Pray that God would give him strength, wisdom and encouragement as he leads our flock.
- Pray for Jean-Daniel as he serves as an intern and gives leadership to youth ministries (as well as a lot of other things!). Many volunteers contribute to the various ministries for children, junior high, youth, and young adults (both students and working people). May a new generation rise up to believe, love, trust and serve the Lord.
- Pray for unity, wisdom and grace as we seek to fulfill the church's mission of "multiplying disciples, multiplying leaders and multiplying churches."

Church plants:

Pont de Chéruy – It was a joy to gather in Pont de Chéruy for a combined Easter service of around 400 people that included the mother churches (EPEVC and Action Biblique Villeurbanne) and the church plants!

- Urgent prayer! The church has placed an offer to purchase the former unemployment office which is located in the center of town and would give them great visibility. The mayor who has to approve the change of use for the building is hesitating to give a favorable response because he doesn't want to open the door in the future to giving approval for any mosques. Pray that God would change his heart! I think he has to communicate his decision by April 9.
- Pray for Stéphane K who was just appointed an elder and the pastor of the church. On April 10 the church will have a special consecration service to which they will invite local authorities, journalists and neighbors.
- Praise that their local newspaper published an article about evangelicals which was very favorable and even included a photo of the Pont de Chéruy group.

Montalieu –

- Pray for the protection of Jean-Benoît and Bénédicte and their four children as they have encountered spiritual opposition.

- JB & B not only desire to start a church in Montalieu but are working full-time contributing their gifts and coordinating with Pont de Chéruy. Their #1 request is that God would work in hearts so they can see their friends, neighbors and circle of acquaintances bow before Christ and realize how infinite His grace is.

Trévoux –

- Praise that they have found a building in town to rent; renovations have begun.
- Praise that the group is growing and is meeting every other Sunday for worship services.
- Pray for several people who are participating in discovery Bible studies that they will turn their hearts to Christ and be transformed by the Word.

Lyon East house group: I have accepted a church-wide challenge to help people in the group to formulate the gospel and to prepare their personal testimony. Aude and I have organized two sessions together to share with our group. Please continue to pray for the salvation of several “not yet” believers with whom we have regular contact. A newer believer Marie-Françoise joined our group; Syrolie is back from Congo after 8 months to help her family (unfortunately her father who was ill passed away); and it looks like a couple of people from the original house group will reintegrate the group. This means that we potentially could be 16-18 again.

Baptisms: Praise the Lord for the amazing testimony at Aude and Josiane’s baptisms. All 20 people – neighbors, colleagues and friends - that Aude invited came! People were quite moved (I literally saw 4 people pull out tissues and others who wished they had them!) The majority stayed for a reception afterwards and there were some excellent discussions. Please pray that God would work in hearts and that the visitors would come to faith in Christ.

Un Coeur pour Lyon (A Heart for Lyon): Things are beginning to gear up for this city-wide evangelistic outreach. Many local evangelical churches and works are sponsoring different events (flash mob, barbecue, clothes give-away, kids’ carnival, African service and meal, etc.) during the first three weeks of May, culminating in a 2-day gathering May 21-22 at a large conference center. Pray for the mobilization of believers and for God to work in the hearts of men and women who desperately need Christ.

Chateau of Saint Albain:

- Tomorrow (March 31) the CEP-Château committee (Joël, myself, Joy, Paul and Greg) will join together for our annual business meeting. In early February I met with Denis from the accounting firm in preparation of the year-end financial statement. Please pray for wisdom as we make decisions that affect the future of this ministry. We are facing many challenges, including bringing the Chateau up to handicap standards and the financial commitment this implies. Please pray for God’s abundant provision.
- Praise that Claire Martin, who spent her childhood years in France when her parents were a part of our missionary team, plans to arrive April 3 to begin a 2-year term at the Chateau. Pray for her adjustments and for the current Chateau staff: Bruce & Karen and Christelle.
- Praise the Lord that we have named a new director for the Chateau ministry. Although there are still details to be worked out, Nicolas Alfonso will lead the Chateau team starting in July, Lord willing. He is joined by his wife Nancy and two young children.

In May, Betsy and I will join Jan (friend since kindergarten) and some of her friends and family in Bath, England for a week to celebrate her 60th birthday. We triplets follow close behind! We will rent a typical British house that sleeps ten. Pray that this break will do me good! (Unfortunately, Margie can’t get off work to come).

Thanks again for your prayer and financial support. I ended the year with a positive fund balance but I still have my work cut out to raise additional support commitments.

In Christ,

Patty ☺

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Serving with:

