

Patty's Praises & Prayer Requests ☺ – October 2016



Greetings from Villeurbanne! I know that I am long overdue in sending out news. I can't believe that five weeks have passed since I returned to France after my home ministries when I had the joy of visiting supporters in California, Utah, Texas, Ohio, Indiana and family in Arizona. (I trekked through 11 airports so I'm especially grateful for safety in travel). MERCI BEAUCOUP for your hospitality, your prayers, your sacrificial giving and your encouragements. I wish I could have seen everyone, but time just did not permit. If I missed seeing you I am truly sorry and hope we can connect next time.

Ladies Bible study - As you can imagine, when I returned I "hit the ground running." It was joy to start up a new year with the ladies Bible study group just 5 days after my return. This year we are studying Romans. I'm so glad for the "good news" of the Gospel after the bleak picture Paul paints of our desperate need – there is not one who does good and all are under the wrath and judgment of God. We'll look more closely at the "good news" in our next study: "*all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus*" (Rom. 3:24).



House group – The Lyon East house group started up a few days after the first ladies Bible study. We had a nice time of fellowship touching bases after a busy summer. I gave a reminder of our goals and purpose, and we were able to pray for one another. From our last meeting through December we are looking at the biblical metaphors that help us to understand the church and our relationships, including our privileges and responsibilities. We've had to be flexible and adjust meeting dates because of holidays (Armistice and Christmas). Joëlle has volunteered to accompany us with her guitar as we try to be better at incorporating worship songs – not our strong point! Please continue to pray for those who have not yet professed Christ. We are missing Josiane who moved to Ghent, Belgium this summer, but are rejoicing that God provided a job for her. (Did you know that there are a total of 12 house groups with around 125-150 participating?)

Villeurbanne – Philippe Viguié and his family have been at the church for two years, and he has officially been pastor since March 2016. The church has decided to return to a single Sunday morning worship service in order to consolidate after sending off the Trévoux group. In partnership with Action Biblique, we also have our sights on another area in which to plant a church, Caluire and Croix Rousse, northeast of Lyon. Please pray for wisdom as we reach out while being faithful to the ministries God has already entrusted to us. Some upcoming outreach activities for which you can join us in prayer are: Nov. 4 – Conference-debate "Should we be afraid?" (in light of the terrorist activities); Nov. 26 – Used clothing give away; Dec. 3 – Distribution of Christmas cookies/ tracts in church neighborhood; Dec. 14 – Children's Christmas Club; Dec. 17 – Dinner-concert. Pray also for activities that I don't mention often because I'm not directly involved that strengthen and edify believers: Sunday school for children, youth groups, women's and men's meetings, Scouts, gathering of medical students and medical professionals; and Bible study in Revelation (led by colleague Mark Sims).



Pont de Chéruy – Pray for the church as they begin a new format in their house groups to encourage more people to be involved and be more consistent in their participation. The church has many young couples with children so that increases the challenge of organizing mid-week meetings. -- Thank the Lord that most every week young believers and seekers attend the church service. Pray that the preaching of the Word by Pastor Stéphane Kapitaniuk and others would be powerful and lead to conversions.



Montalieu – Saturday (10/29), ten local church youth teams will meet for Bible quizzing on the book of 1 Timothy hosted by our church planting team in Montalieu. Pray that the study of the Word would challenge the young people and their supporters. – Please pray for Jean-Benoît and Bénédicte: that God would provide for their support, that they would have



wisdom in bringing up their five children to love and obey Christ, that doors would be open for the sharing of the Gospel, that God would protect them from spiritual attacks, and that God would give them discernment in accompanying some of the youth who are experiencing trials.

Saône Vallée (Trévoux) – The church at Trévoux started weekly Sunday worship services this fall. They officially kicked off their activities October 1-2, including an “open house” on Saturday evening for those wanting to see the new meeting place and discuss what they are hoping to do in the neighborhood. There was a fairly full house during the two hours. On Sunday morning, they held an “accessible” church service for anyone who would be interested in coming. Several neighbors showed up! Please pray that God would bring the light of the Gospel to the hearts of all those who came.



Chateau of Saint Albain – Praise God for Nicolas Alfonso, who began as the new director of the Chateau on September 1. He with his wife Nancy and their two young children (with #3 on the way) moved into the gate house on the property shortly after he assumed his responsibilities. (Some of you may have met Nicolas as he participated in three of the dinners for the future funding of the Chateau in Ohio and Indiana.) -- Pray for good teamwork with the current team comprised of Bruce & Karen Beck and Claire Martin.



They're all working hard and doing a good job at serving the groups who come for retreats, training, evangelism, prayer, etc. -- Pray as I continue to give oversight of the accounting and that I can give adequate, timely reports that will be helpful in future planning and projections. -- Pray for the 2-year transition team that has been put into place by Encompass, owner of the property, to formulate plans for evangelism among youth, upgrading the facility, sustainable financing and future direction (next generation). – Pray for the annual Live Nativity and Christmas market December 9-11. Up to 1600 visitors in one weekend have come in past years to hear the true story of Christmas.

Support needs: Although I was just in the States I still have a significant amount of support to raise. If you are able to help through a one-time gift or a monthly / annual commitment I would be grateful. Gifts (clearly marked for Patty Morris) can be sent directly to: Encompass World Partners, P.O. Box 3298, Monument, CO 80132-3290 or they can also be made on-line through the Encompass website by scrolling down to my name at : <http://www.encompassworldpartners.org/missionaries-giving-list>

Miscellaneous:

- I continue to mobilize pray-ers for needs in the local church, the church plants and the missionaries the EPEVC has sent out by compiling an extensive prayer list every month. A few of us meet during the half hour preceding the Sunday services to intercede.
- Friend Liliane and I plan to prepare a Thanksgiving meal in my home on Sunday, Nov. 27 with several French friends. Please pray particularly for Cedric, Deborah's husband, who is not a believer. (They were my cat sitters while I was on home ministries.) May we all express our gratitude to God for who He is and what He has done!
- My cat Squirt is now 12 years old. The entry on my calendar on Nov. 8, 2004 reads, “Pick cat up from Nitchelms.” (The 3-month old kitten didn't have a name yet!) It looks like Squirt is starting to have kidney failure – at least it's not diabetes as may have been feared - so for the next month she is to only eat *expensive* special food. She's supposed to take medicine but she refuses to eat her food if she senses meds are mixed in. I think I'd lose my arm if I tried to force a pill down her throat! She's winning the battle! I'll see if her levels have changed when I take her to the vet again on Nov. 23 for another blood test. I'm glad that God cares for my little teammate (and me!).

With love and gratitude for your partnership,

Patty ☺

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