













Patty's Praises & Prayer Requests...☺ December 2016







Winter has officially arrived and I have not yet sent my best wishes for a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year 2017. Consider it done! Although I don't say it often enough, I really am thankful for you, your friendship and partnership which allows me to continue to invest in lives here in France. Below are some of this year's highlights. Please pray that I will be faithful as each day, week, month and year brings its challenges and blessings.





Looking back:

-  The Encompass Church Planting Network colloquium was held in Dijon, France with 40 missionary staff from 11 countries. It was a great opportunity for the "netmates" to either reconnect or to meet one another. I recently have agreed to be part of the CP leadership team with Paul & Louise Klawitter, Mike & Michelle Beard and Ted Offutt, but don't know fully yet what that may imply.
-  At the annual business meeting in March, the Lyon-Villeurbanne church officially appointed Philippe Viguier as its new pastor.
-  In April, Claire Martin joined short-term workers Bruce & Karen Beck as part of the team at the Chateau of Saint Albain. On September 1, Nicolas Alfonso, started as the new Director. Nicolas, his wife Nancy and their two young children (and #3 due in March) moved into the gatehouse on the property. A 2-year transition committee was created to formulate plans for evangelism among youth, upgrading the facility, sustainable financing and future direction.
-  What fun it was to spend a week in May in Bath, England with Betsy and several others to celebrate a childhood friend Jan's 60th birthday bash! In addition to we "triplets" turning 60 in June, I was in good company as seven French friends reached the same milestone (with two more to join in 2017)!
-  What a privilege it was for me to spend five weeks on home ministries in Aug.-Sep. visiting family and supporters in CA, TX, UT, OH, IN and AZ! The Lord gave great visits and safety as I transited through 11 airports. My only regret was that I could not see everyone.
-  In the fall, three fund-raiser dinners were held in Lititz, PA Columbus, OH and Winona Lake, IN to communicate vision and the need to bring the Chateau property up to handicap standards. Thanks to Wayne Hannah for organizing them! If you'd be interested in helping us with this project, go to: <https://www.encompassworldpartners.org/projects> and scroll down to "Chateau vision project" or gifts can be sent to Encompass World Partners, P.O. Box 3298, Monument, CO 80132- 3290.
-  Praise God that the new church in Trévoux started weekly Sunday worship services in the fall. We miss the members who moved on but rejoice in God's answer to prayer. We're thankful for the solid church in Pont de Chérury and we're asking God to open doors in Montalieu and Caluire.
-  Praise God for the annual Live Nativity and Christmas market at the Chateau December 9-11 which allowed hundreds of people to hear the true Christmas message of hope.
-  I have invited Claire Martin to spend Christmas weekend with me. After the worship service on Christmas Day we've been invited to Patrick & Sylviane's. Pray that we'll have a positive testimony to nine other family members who have also been invited. I'll spend New Year's Day with church friends: Vincent, Anne-Marie, Liliane and her father.
-  I'm encouraged at what I see in the lives of those in my house group and the ladies Bible study. I enjoy teaching, praying with and for them, and building into their lives, and in turn seeing them reach out to others and using their gifts in areas where I am not skilled. A few who are unbelievers are moving towards Christ.

Looking ahead:

-  In January, I have an appointment to see a rheumatologist for osteoarthritis in my knees. His advice will determine if I will eventually be sent for a consultation with a surgeon. (My brother Bob had knee replacement surgery this week!)
-  I continue to oversee the accounting at the Chateau and will meet hopefully in early February with the CPA towards preparation of the annual financial statement. As for managing the France field finances, I've done them for so long that it just happens! =)
-  I'm looking forward to making a trip to Israel March 1-12 with Margie, Betsy and friend Annie. We will join a tour group in Tel Aviv led by Dr. Bob Fetterhoff, pastor of Wooster GBC. (France missionary colleagues Dave & Susan Griffith will also make the trip.)
-  Additional Chateau fund raiser dinners are in the planning for California in 2017. More info to come as the details fall into place.
-  Jean-Daniel, intern at the Villeurbanne church, has decided not to continue youth ministries with us at the end of his 2-year commitment because he would like to pursue a pastoral ministry. Pray for him and his family, and that God would meet the needs in our local church.
-  John and Shari Jones are closing a big chapter of their lives: after pastoring the GBC in Marion, Ohio for 25 years, they will be serving at the Chateau, arriving Lord willing, in summer 2017. Please pray as they raise support and prepare for this new opportunity for ministry.

Miscellaneous:

-  Praise God that one of my supporting churches was able to increase their monthly support! It's amazing that although I have been under supported, I have maintained a positive fund balance! **Merci** to each who has supported me financially and with your prayers over the years!
-  Squirt has finally been taking her meds and seems to be doing well right now. She has even been unusually playful in the past couple of weeks! I'm still giving her expensive special cat food, but if it works it's worth it. The vet has only given her a 1-yr. life prognosis, but I think she could beat those odds.

In this day and age, many forms of communication are going digital, including many resources from Encompass World Partners. You may have received these resources in "paper form" before. But due to laws regarding digital communication, it is not legal to simply transfer those paper mailing lists to digital lists. So, PLEASE SIGN UP for the digital copy!

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Praising God for you, and His faithfulness and answers to prayer,

Patty ☺

Patty MORRIS
62, avenue Marc Sangnier
69100 VILLEURBANNE
FRANCE
E-mail: pattymorris2@gmail.com

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