

# Thanksgiving 2020



Bonjour !

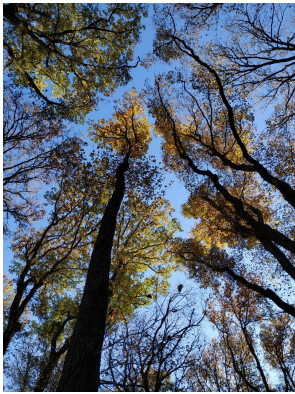
Since our last letter in September, talking of baptism and the renovation coming up, much has happened. A second COVID epidemic has come and gone.

We had a curfew and then a second lockdown. And while many are stopped in their tracks, I've hardly been so busy!



The French president announced this week that the lockdown will be adjusted as of this weekend, more freedom of movement. Churches can "reopen", that is people can gather again, while respecting the sanitary rules. And people will be allowed to celebrate Christmas and New Year... though not outside in the streets. A new curfew will be in place. If all goes well, by January 20 the second lockdown should be officially over.

Fortunately, the second lockdown arrived just after the big knock down of the walls of the different rooms in the church building (actually, I cut them out instead of knocking them down). This meant that the boys, and some others, we able to help during the autumn school break. With the help of a colleague church planter who is also a professional carpenter, we rebuild the walls the following the week. Meanwhile, Jody made sure to there would be some good food on the table for the hungry men! Now we have to wait for the doors to arrive. Not only were new walls put up, electricity and plumbing had to be taken care of as well. The next big job is replacing and enlarging all the external windows and setting some new ones, probably in January or February. We'll see! While the work has advanced a lot, there is still tons to be done! Like the floor.



Meanwhile, the weather has been all of the place, but no snow of course. We have scraped the windows, and flowers have started to bloom again thinking spring has arrived. Pretty though. We have also enjoyed the beautiful trees in our neighboring park during our one hour authorized daily outings.

As we are adapting and juggling with every changing rules and limits, we have continued to walk with Jesus and serve Him in the many ways He has offered, together with those who form His family. While we accept the challenge of keeping the ties between, we have seen a real desire of people to meet and to be connected. The lockdowns, the masks, and the distancing have brought out into the light that people need people and real relationships.

Today is Thanksgiving. For many it is a day with many mixed feelings and desires. In France, most don't know about giving thanks, though many know about "black Friday". Because of Good Friday, we can give thanks to our Creator who faithfully provides in our needs. Indeed, God is good!

Thank you so much for partnering with us through prayer and financial support. We are really grateful for your involvement in our lives and ministries! May our Lord Jesus bless you with His peace and joy!

*Marc & Jody  
Jan-Willem and Jack*

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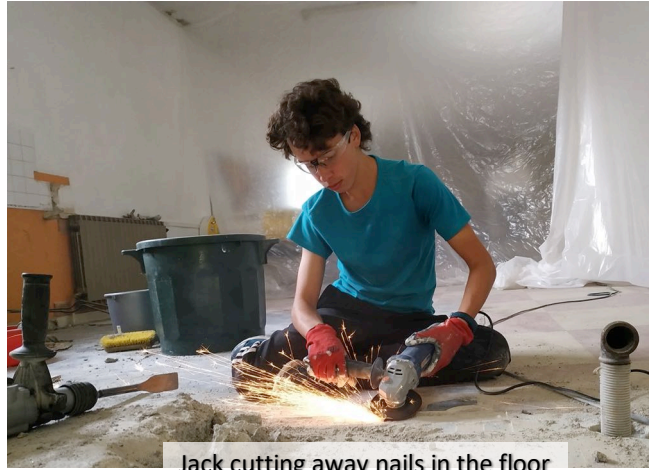
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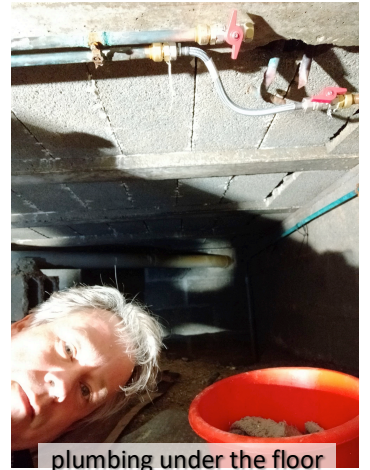
  
European Christian Mission



Marc attacking the cement block



Jack cutting away nails in the floor



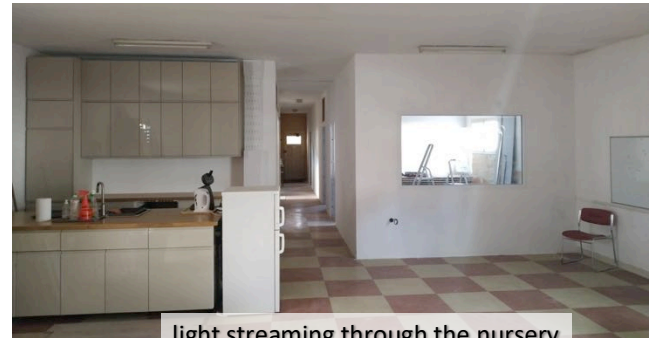
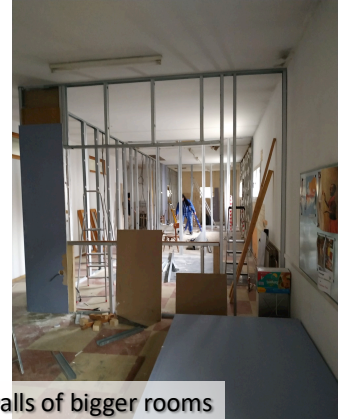
plumbing under the floor



Raphaël is rebuilding the hallway



building the new walls of bigger rooms



light streaming through the nursery



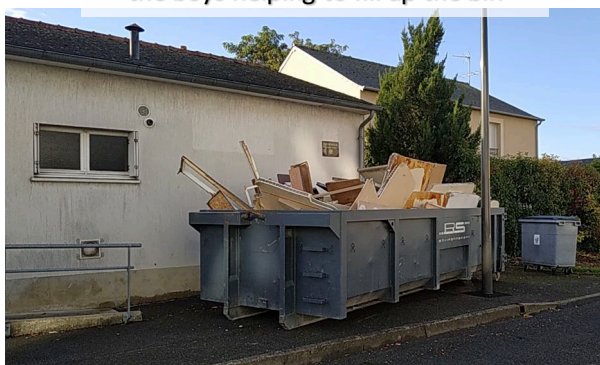
the boys helping to fill up the bin



work  
in  
progress



old kitchen



new kitchen