

Autumn 2025



Bonjour!

Fall has begun. Leaves are floating down to the ground. The trees are beautiful! It's amazing how season after season, we can witness God's faithfulness and His sustaining power.

The last day of August, our son Jack testified how God has been working throughout his life and that now it's time he responds to God in obedience and be baptized. It has been fun to see how Jack started a Bible reading group with others in his class and how he has been engaging with friends about the Christian faith. He was already involved in the Scout's movement, as is his older brother. Of course, as parents, we are delighted to see our sons really taking to heart following Jesus and serving in His Kingdom.

Jack (19) is now in his third year of "preparatory class" and hoping to get into one of France's "Grand Schools" to become an historian. If he doesn't manage, he might do his master's at the Sorbonne, Paris, or Aix-en-Provence (especially if his brother goes there to do his master's in theology). But for now, our younger son is still at home!



Jan-Willem (22) is still enjoying being in seminary, studying Greek, Hebrew and theology. He's exploring his options. Next year he might change schools and move from the Paris area to the south of France to do his master's. He's looking into becoming a pastor and/or seminary professor. Both are much needed in France, and he has the profile for both. He also keeps his father on his toes in "endless" conversations. It is so nice to be together and talk for hours when he is home on school break!

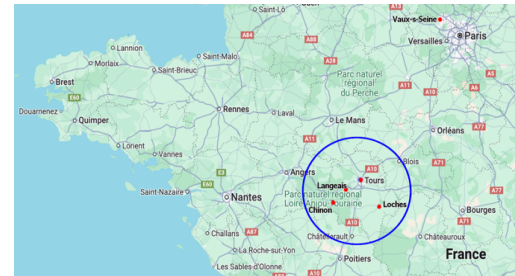
Jody has started calligraphy classes on Monday afternoon. She always had something for writing. She still walks with her Chinese Buddhist friend and has deep conversations about the meaning of life. This friend's husband has lost the use of his legs due to a tumor in his lower back. Our prayer is that they will discover the true meaning of God's love and salvation. Besides making sure that whoever comes to our house is welcomed with a meal, Jody continues being involved in a small group and teaching Sunday school as well as other activities. And new this year is participating in an online Bible Study Fellowship International study of the book of Daniel. Perhaps one of her greatest impacts on the family, and notably on her husband, is being a critical mirror, helping us to reflect who and how we are in the light of God's Word.

Two years ago, Marc did a 360° review of his ministry and his functioning to see what changes he should be making, as he still has a good decade left before "retirement". There were no surprises but rather a confirmation to go ahead in the chosen direction of overseeing the local churches in the region and intervening in crisis situations. As a result, Marc announced his stepping down as the president and director of the local



community center “Maison de la Solidarité” after running it for the last 9 years. This has been a slow process that will be completed next March. It had the local authorities and the volunteers really worried! It made the regional newspaper. Who is willing to take over and who is capable? Fortunately, we may have finally found the person for the job! In the next six months, Marc will be working on the transfer of competences. Pray that it will be a successful handover and that God will be glorified. In June, he gave his last computer class after 25 years teaching it as a volunteer.

Meanwhile in July 2023, the church in Loches became “pastorless”, so a bit unexpectedly, Marc had to step in and give it a new impulse and stability. It has been a wonderful experience where God’s faithfulness once again has been demonstrated.



Children, seekers, sceptics, and Christians alike enjoyed the two-year journey through the Gospel of Matthew. It meant (and still does) preaching one sermon in the morning in Tours, then driving an hour south-east to Loches for a totally different sermon at the 5pm service. Fortunately, in January, a new missionary family from the US joined the Loches church to be trained for ministry. As of this summer, two more churches were placed under Marc’s supervision: Langeais and Chinon.



For the last four years, we were blessed with the presence of Jack and Sarah, and their son, a British ECM missionary couple who helped us a lot in Tours. Now that their initial training has been completed, they have moved on in July to pastor a church in St Brieuc in Brittany, leaving a big hole in our heart.

In June, Jan-Willem and Marc went to Strasburg for the official installation as pastor of a mutual friend Francis. Francis and his family used to be in our church in Tours. Francis is one of those beautiful stories of redemption--conversion, deliverance, and calling to ministry. What a blessing it is to have been instrumental in the transformation of his and other’s lives. Thanks to God’s work in and through Francis, there is a flourishing Scouting ministry in our region as well as more pastors working in France.



This year has been marked by tears of joy and of sadness, more than we can express. But God is faithful and He builds His Church, also in Central France. As always God knows how to renew and strengthen us. When thinking about it, we cannot help but be grateful for the people close by and far away that God has given us. Indeed, the support we get from you makes a big difference in our lives. So, thank you for being partners with us for the sake of the Gospel! Please pray for us as we are seeking to encourage people to trust Jesus Christ wholeheartedly!

Love,
Marc & Jody

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