



Bonjour!

It is done! After almost a decade of leading the “Maison de la Solidarité” as its president and having served on the board for over two decades, Marc stepped down on March 21. A lot of hard work went into finding the right solution. Many people were rather anxious about what would be next. Our only

candidate turned out to be a “bad apple”. Fortunately, the same day a new idea was proposed: merging with our partner organization, responsible for the food distribution, and putting in place of a team of 5 codirectors sharing the responsibilities, instead of 1 president who has all the responsibilities. We had different meetings throughout the winter to make sure we were all on board and that the various apprehensions were dealt with. Marc had to write up the merger project with all its particulars, as well as the new statutes. It was very energy consuming, but it is done. It made for three articles in the regional newspaper *La Nouvelle République*.

Unfortunately, one of the five codirectors lost his cool and has left his post, not even lasting three weeks! That’s reality for you! Now, Marc is helping the leadership team as an “outsider” to help them through the challenge.

Finding competent people who are willing to accept responsibilities and who will persevere in the job, let alone finding the *right* people is a real challenge. Nowadays, it seems almost an impossibility. Many organizations in France struggle to find leaders. The same phenomenon is observed in churches... It reminds me often of Paul Washer’s sermon on Isaiah 3 and the need for godly men.

With five churches under his responsibilities, Marc is confronted with the need to train people. But finding faithful, available, and teachable people is a rare gift. Indeed, a matter of praying the Master of the harvest. And yet, there are people, like Anjara (pronounce: Anzara), a PA teacher in his 30’s who is being trained for ministry. He just finished his first cycle and is going to do his internship in our church where he and his wife have been part of in the last three years. So, pray for them that they grow in strength and in wisdom.



Happy Scouts leaders

Jan-Willem (23) is still enjoying being in seminary and will start his M.Th. after the summer. But before that, he will be doing a short internship in Saint Briec, in Normandy. It’s where Jack and Sarah Winterburn, our former interns, serve in the local church.

Meanwhile, Jack (20) is growing in his responsibilities in the evangelical scout’s movement and the French intervarsity. Normally,



Jan-Willem and Jack canoeing on the Cher River



Canoeing on the Cher River and going under the Chenonceau castle

by this summer he should know where in France he can do his master's in history: Lyon, Bordeaux, Paris or Aix-en-Provence.

We are very happy with our boys, but we are less happy to become empty nesters. However, two weeks ago, we enjoyed their presence at home... for a few days! We took advantage of them being home together and went

an afternoon canoeing on the Cher River and going under the castle of Chenonceau!

Church life in the Tours church is interesting. On the one hand, the attendance is very fluctuating, and on the other, several people are desiring to follow Jesus and are being prepared for baptism: Camille, Jule, Eloïse, Sahra... The discipleship is done on an individual basis though regularly it is a team effort, as different people encourage these individuals to grow in their faith. How discipleship is done now is quite different from 50 years ago.

In the Chinon church, some 30 miles southeast from Tours, we are preparing several people for baptism as well, including a seven-month pregnant young mother to be. Weather permitting, by the end of the month, the baptism will take place in the Vienne River (one of three big rivers of the region, besides the Loire and the Cher). These baptisms are a real encouragement to the small church, since just a few years ago, Séverine was baptized, then last summer her husband Gérald, and now his dad Marc is going to be baptized. It's nice to see that the Gospel is still progressing through the families and in France!



Jody is still holding the fort at home. Trying different baking recipes, mostly bread. And we don't mind!

Through her English conversation group, Jody learned about a lady who was giving away English history book. So, she and Jack went over to check it out, as well a baby grand piano. They came back with a few bags of books but not the piano (too big for our small home). Since then, she has met up a few times with Nancy who has decided to make Jody her friend. On their first walk together, she learned that Nancy is deep into Christians Science!



The last year has been one of the most challenging years in ministry, but we are very much encouraged by the people God has placed into our lives, like you who pray and support us so faithfully. Thank you so much for praying for us. May God strengthen your hearts with His love and joy!

Love,  
Marc & Jody

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