

## From Jonathan & Rachel in France

July 2022

Dear friends,

Warm summer greetings from our corner of France, where we are sweltering like the rest of Europe in the grip of a major heatwave.

Pictured is our local town, Sisteron, where we get supplies and pick up missionaries when they arrive by train.



### From far and wide

We are thankful that Entrepierres has been operating normally over the past few months.

To whom have we had the privilege of ministering? Missionaries have been coming from far and wide.

Last week we welcomed an American midwife serving in Chad, a French couple transitioning from Mali to Réunion Island, a French family serving in Congo-Brazzaville, a French couple returning from Cambodia, a French family returning from Papua New Guinea, and a Swiss couple planting a church in their home country.

This week we have three families serving in France, and the rest in Belgium, Togo and Switzerland.

While some have simply come for a much-needed rest, others are here for counselling and debriefing, totalling 45 hours of sessions per week for us as a team.

### Letting go

Letting go can be a significant challenge when you've spent 18 years serving God in a country that you love, investing in people and projects that have given you as much as you have given them. The sense of loss is real, with all the sadness that it brings for adults and their children.

Sometimes the grief doesn't get processed because emotionally the missionary is still in their country of service even though physically they are back in their sending country. In some cases, a missionary will get emotionally stuck in a kind of no man's land where they have trouble embracing the next stage because they haven't relinquished the previous one.

Our role is to provide a safe space where people can tell their story so that the loss and grief can be unlocked and understood.



### Team and Family

Our team is keeping well, even if Covid did finally manage to find its way into our little village. Thankfully, we all recovered from our respective bouts.

Our children continue in their respective fields of work. All three have finished their studies.

**Stephanie** (23) has plenty of work as a camera operator in Scotland. Her film shoots are a mix of TV dramas, feature films, and advertising. **Danilo** (25), who is settled in Dublin, works as a part-time musician, and has another part-time to make ends meet. **Alexi** (27) has plans to join his brother in Ireland, which will be a fresh start for him.





### **On standby and waiting...**

Purchasing the small property adjacent to ours remains in our plans. It has been 3 years since the owners have come, yet they do not show any signs of wanting to sell. We know that it is in God's hands and that it will happen in due course, when God decides.

If you'd like to help us to be prepared to make an offer when the time comes, please go to MSC Canada's "[\*\*PIERRES VIVANTES BUILDING FUND\*\*](#)".

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### **Please and thank you**

#### **Thank you, Lord**

- That Jonathan was able to travel and fulfil his various speaking engagements in January, February and March, including a five-day conference in Budapest.
- That we are able to operate normally, with 130 people welcomed so far this year.

#### **Please, Lord**

- Minister to the Christian workers staying here, each according to their need.
- Nudge the owners of the neighbouring property so that it can be integrated into the work and used for His purposes.
- Provide the encouragement that our children need as, like so many young people today, they face the uncertainties and insecurities of a world teetering in major ways (fear of economic recession, ecological crisis, social and political polarization, etc.).

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We wish you a blessed summer season. In all things, may the presence and love of Jesus be your greatest joy.

With our loving greetings,

*Jonathan and Rachel Ward*

If you would like to help us come alongside God's workers to help them manage the pressures of serving Him in challenging places, tax-deductible giving can be made to

**MSC Canada** and designated for "**Association Pierres Vivantes**".

[www.msccanada.org](http://www.msccanada.org)