

Brenda Rota

From: Kevin <staufferkevinward@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 2:47 PM
To: Hello
Subject: Stauffer September Newsletter

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Hey everyone. I am so excited to say that we are back in France. After 4 months, 11,000 miles, somewhere around 20 church/pastor visits and countless visits with lots of you, God has blessed all of that so that we could come back home. While we still have a bit of work to do in shoring up our support long term, we were able to get to close enough to 100 percent for this year to get to come home and get back to the ministry we love here in France. Below are a couple pics from church visits and- me pictured with Casey, the Finance guy with Encompass when he gave us the official green light to go back to France. To say that we are grateful to all of you who support us, pray for us, and encourage us through all of this is such an understatement. I really don't have words for how appreciative I am, but THANK YOU!



So, we are finally back at our home church in Trevoux. We are starting to grow to the point that, on some Sundays, we are really full and we especially don't have enough space for the kids. Our solution is we are adding a stand alone classroom to accommodate the children's ministry needs, but it won't be installed until March or so. For now, you can see the tent we have set up outside, which is currently functioning as a makeshift classroom. Please pray we figure out a solution for this winter. The tent will obviously be less than ideal when it gets cold, but we are excited because it's a great problem to have and Cheryl and I are just so happy to be back.



One exciting thing happening is the leaders of the Charis churches in and around Lyon are starting to meet to talk about how we might work better together and train future leaders for our churches. I am really excited about this.



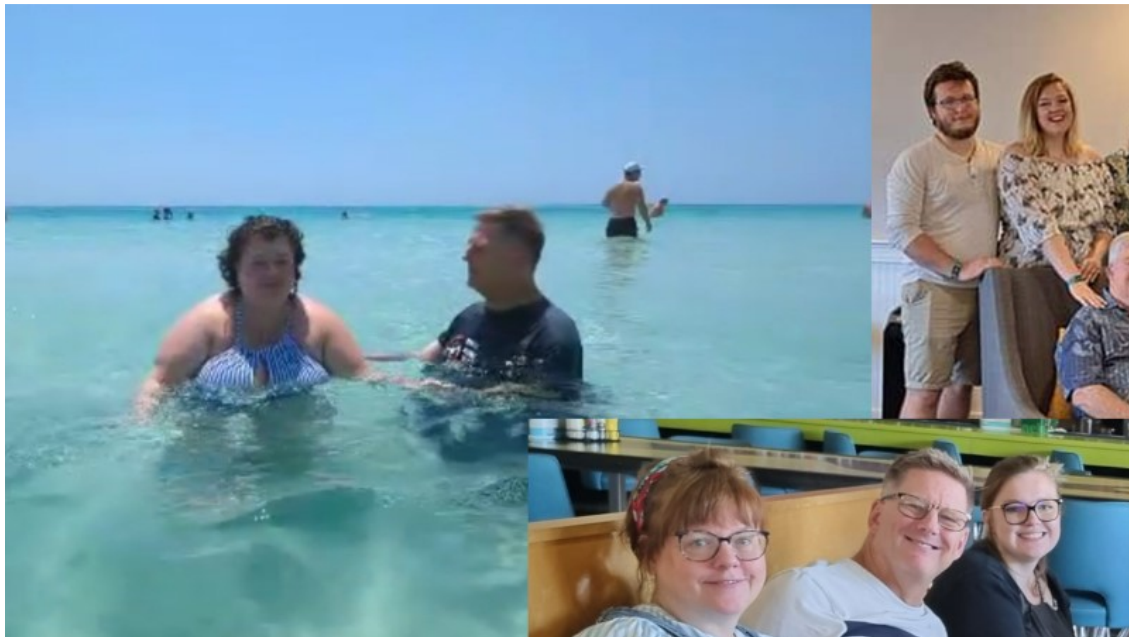
Back in France means back to work :-). I started this week with the first year students of the Geneva Bible Institute (pictured above). These students will train to be pastors, missionaries, and church leaders. It's a small school. We have about 20-30 new students a year, but in France that's significant and this school has had a tremendous impact on the Evangelical church in France. This will be my 19th year at the school and my 18th year getting to work with Joel, my musical partner in crime.

I am also back to school myself (below). I am halfway through a masters in Theology with Crosslands, a seminary program based in the UK. We just started back up this week with our residential with a deep dive into the New Testament. It's mostly online, but a couple times a year we meet in person. He we are meeting in Ashbourne, England for a week of class. In the middle is the Music Ministry study group, which I am a part of.



While in the States I got to talk with the men's group from Mark and Carlie's church in Gulf Shores, Alabama, about how and why we sing when we gather as a church. It was a blast, and we are so grateful they have found a church home that they love.





While in the States, we actually had something pretty wonderful happen. With family on two continents, we virtually NEVER get to have all of us together. It's just a product of the life we have chosen, and, while it's not always easy, we came to terms with that a long time ago. But this summer, we took a family vacation TOGETHER. We had Cheryl and I, all of our kids (including the two we got from our kids getting married), my mom and stepdad, and my brother and his wife together in Florida for a short, but wonderful, time. We celebrated my Mom's 80th and our Lucy's 20th. If that wasn't cool enough, I had the honor of baptizing my daughter-in-law, Carlie, in the Gulf of Mexico. Sometimes, God just gives you gifts like that, and we are so grateful.



Well, that's all from us for now. We always love hearing back from you if you have a minute. Thanks for taking time to catch up with us.

Kev

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