

THIS HUMBLE CONFIDENCE

We believe the gospel — the message of salvation through Jesus Christ, the Son of God alone — is of first importance for all men and women of every tribe, tongue and nation everywhere on this earth. We believe, as followers of Christ, we are heralds of this good news.

DEAR FRIENDS

The past two months have certainly shown all of us how quickly our temporal realities can change. Just two months ago, everything in our plan to transition to Quebec was on schedule. We were ready to take our team building trip to a conference in Kentucky; we had high hopes of completing our partnership team on that trip. Zach and Olive were planning on moving to Quebec. Zach was preparing to begin his training position in Mirabel next month. All of us were mentally, emotionally and spiritually preparing for a season of change and transition. Much has changed, and yet we have the distinct joy of serving an unchanging God. In the midst of an ever-changing world, in the midst of all the unknowns — we can be sure our God is the same yesterday, today and forever.

“Then I will draw near to you for judgment....For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.”

These are the words of God found in Malachi 3:5-6. What is so remarkable about these words of God to the people of Israel, his chosen people in the Old Testament, is that God is declaring that his unchanging nature is the reason they would not be consumed. They had often rejected God for idols. More often than not God’s people had acted as children of the world; they had failed miserably to keep their end of the covenant God had made with them, yet the LORD says, *“I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.”*

Even in these weeks and months of change, God has not changed. He is still calling out a people for his glory. God is still seeking and saving lost sinners. The Spirit of God is still convicting the world of sin, opening eyes to the beauty of Jesus and making dead hearts alive. Friends, be certain that our God is accomplishing his purposes in the world and he is accomplishing his purposes through fragile jars of clay like us. Are we not humbled that God has given us this ministry of reconciliation? Does it not excite us that amidst all the uncertainty we can proclaim the good news of salvation in Christ alone? Should we not be filled with hope and expectation that God will continue to use our grace-driven efforts for the salvation of our neighbours and the glory of his name in the world? It is with this humble confidence and hope that we continue to make plans to transition to Quebec this year, Lord willing. We know that he who called us is *faithful*, and so we continue to make plans and press on knowing that in his timing we will transition to Quebec to begin our integration.

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A FEW UPDATES

We do have some updates to share with you as we continue to prepare for ministry in Quebec. Now that ministry in most places in our country is happening online we have been able to connect with our friends in Quebec in new ways. We have had the opportunity to meet with other missionaries that are planning on or are currently living in Quebec via Zoom. We have been invited to sit in on staff and all-leader meetings with our local church in Montreal. Sawyer has been able to be part of “zone enfants”, a kids bible story time on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Finally we have been invited to meet with the “groupe de quartier” (community group) that is closest to where we are hoping to live in Montreal. We are grateful for these opportunities to grow in relationship with our friends in Quebec before we arrive.

Aaron has begun to work through the beginning stages of the Acts29/SEMBEQ training for church planters. There are twelve courses correlated with the twelve core competencies of church planters in the Acts29 assessment process. Much of these courses will happen in-context once we arrive, but for now he is able to begin working through the academic components.

SEMBEQ COURSES

Spiritual Vitality
Theological Clarity
Conviction & Commendation
Ability to Teach
Marriage, Family & Home Relationships
Entrepreneurial Aptitude
Organizational Leadership
Visionary Leadership
Missional Lifestyle
Disciple Making
Maturity

A LIVE ZOOM EVENT

*JOIN US
TO PRAY FOR
QUEBEC*

SATURDAY MAY 9, 2020
3PM CST | 4PM EST | 5PM AST

Please RSVP to Olive at
807.374.0102 or olivelaustsen@gmail.com
to receive the zoom link

YOU'RE INVITED:

We are excited to invite you to pray with us for Quebec on May 9, 2020 at 3:00pm CST. We will spend an hour praying for specific prayer requests from our friends in Quebec. We hope you will join us and pray with us. Please RSVP if you intend to be a part of this event and we will send you the Zoom link in the week leading up to it.

In Christ,
The Laustsen's and Murray's