

JOYEUX PRINTEMPS

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.

SPRINGTIME

We greet each one of you in the name of the Lord. Once again, it is a pleasure to be partnered with so many people from so many different places across North America for the spread of the gospel in Quebec. To everyone that has lifted us up in prayer before our heavenly Father, thank you. We thank those as well who continue to faithfully support our efforts financially.

“But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face...”

1 Thessalonians 2:17



If there is anything the Lord has taught us through the pandemic, it is the value of gathering in a physical way with the flock of God in the local church. Earlier this month, the Quebec government increased the gathering limit of places of worship to 25 people, a marked increase over the original 10. Since the change, Église de Verdun has gone back to a hybrid model of services, where those that can gather physically do so, with the rest tuned in to our online platform. It's been a pleasure to share this sacred space with other believers — this embassy of God's kingdom here on earth, where we worship the Triune God and proclaim the excellencies of him of called us out of darkness into his marvelous light (1 Pet. 2:9).

CULTURAL INTEGRATION + SPIRITUAL FORMATION

We are slowly but surely becoming more acquainted with doing said proclamation in French. Olive, who had next to no oral comprehension upon moving here, has seen a marked increase in the words and expressions she can pick out from Sunday sermons and dialogue at home. Aaron and Melissa continue to foster their mostly-French relationship with their midwife, and we continue to receive good feedback from our coordinators with Mission Quebec about our progress in language learning. This summer, we plan to put full-time classes on pause so that we can take advantage of the time our neighbours are outdoors, with the hope that restrictions on gatherings will become more and more relaxed.

Our spiritual formation has kicked off on a more official level as of this past Sunday. Last week, Aaron and Zach had their week of “la formation des anciens” (Elder Training) with some of the brothers from Église 21, Église Le Clocher, and our brother Ange from l’Île des Soeurs who attends and serves at Église de Verdun. Over the next year, we will be learning about the high calling of local church eldership and pastoral ministry, what God requires from those he has called to this service, we will be discerning our own areas of immaturity and weakness that we need to address and strive to improve, and opening ourselves up to the joys of serving God and his church in this way. The training is being done by Gilles Lapierre, a seasoned local pastor as well as a pastor of pastors, who has a no-nonsense approach to healthy discipleship and the work and humility it requires, by the grace of God. We’re thankful for this brother in the Lord and his commitment to raising up and discipling future pastors here in Quebec.

We’ve had a couple of casual conversations about what the next steps might look like for us after our period of integration in Montreal. Obviously nothing is certain, as the past year has reminded us, but it’s exciting to imagine what life might look like in a few years.



OUR BOOKSHELF

Some of what's been pulled off our bookshelf recently, not including our Bibles:

A Big Gospel For Small Places — Stephen Witmer (he does a great job laying out a theological vision for rural church planting and ministry. We went through this book with our Acts29 Rural Cohort)

One Assembly — Jonathan Leeman (one of his more controversial books, where he argues theologically that gathering all together is an essential and defining part of what the local church is. In summary, a team is still a team off of the court, but only because it plays together on the court. Thought-provoking and challenging)

Knowing and Growing in Assurance of Faith — Joel Beeke (get yourself a copy of this. Beeke writes specifically to encourage the believer that lacks assurance of their salvation. You can believe, but sometimes not believe that you believe. Helpful insight and counsel for these dear saints)

Remember us in your prayers.
The Laustsens and Murrays

