

BONNE ANNÉE !

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.

GRATEFUL

The calendar has turned from 2020 to 2021. From a year of transitioning our lives from one province to another, one job to another, one ministry to another, we have left 2020 grateful to God for his constant mercy and provision. We move into 2021, our first full year, the Lord willing in Quebec. Our new year has begun with some continuing challenges. On January 9th the provincial government announced a province-wide lockdown with an enforced 8pm curfew until at least February 8th. The church, which was able to meet with 25 people under the red zone restrictions, could no longer meet together physically. This is, of course, disappointing and another setback in our ability to get to know our new brothers and sisters in Christ here in Montreal. It also makes it more difficult to cultivate relationships with our new neighbours. Despite these disappointments, God has been abundantly gracious and we ask for your continued prayers as we interact with these people, specifically those who live nearest us.

We do have some wonderful news at the outset of this year. Zach has officially qualified in his new position with Nav Canada! As you know, this has been the object of much prayer for us. Thank you for lifting Zach up in prayer these past few months and praise the Lord with us for his provision. Please continue to pray for Zach as he works to the glory of God at the Mirabel airport.

Another point of good news to share with you is that the schools have also been opened with COVID-19 protocols in place. This is good news because Melissa and Olive have been able to officially start their own language learning journey here in Quebec. Aaron is currently taking a break from attending classes so that Olive and Melissa can focus on their learning during this school session. Olive attends class every morning for 4 hours and has an online class in the afternoon and Melissa has in-person classes every other day and is also online every afternoon, with at home assignments for the days where there is no in-person class. Please join us in praying for Melissa and Olive as they attend school this session.



Now that language learning is in full swing we have started a new initiative at home. We have started having “French Meals”! This simply means that we have meals where we only speak French around the table and during cleanup. Of course, the conversation is basic and simple, but it is enjoyable to learn in a relaxed setting like the supper table. Sawyer loves to play games with Zach, trying to answer his questions in French. Our hope is to incorporate more and more “French Only” times throughout our days. Pray for our ongoing language acquisition.

As we have reflected on our new home and church we have been encouraged by the devotion to prayer that is found amongst our ministry leaders. These men and women, who we are slowly beginning to get to know, are serious about the duty and delight of prayer. It has been an encouragement to us to see this devotion in the life of the church, specifically in those who desire to lead in the ministry. We have had the opportunity to be part of prayer walks, during which we walk the streets of our community and pray for the people and organizations that live here. Each month we have a midweek prayer service where we praise the Lord for His mercies and plead with Him to work by his Spirit in our lives, our churches and our province. It is our desire that prayer would be an ever-increasing part of our lives.

There is a young man who lives in a neighbouring town but comes to our neighbourhood in Montreal regularly. We have been staying in contact and sharing our resources with him. A couple of weeks ago we had the privilege of sharing the wonderful news of Jesus, the God-Man who came to live and die for sinners so that they might know and live with the God of the universe forever. A week later we received a message asking us if we could tell him more about our church and how someone becomes part of a church. Join us in praying for our friend! Pray that God would be real to him, that he would see his need of a saviour, and that he would find the perfect saviour in the only Saviour, Jesus.

We take heart, ourselves, in this same good news we share with the world. Our God is ever on his throne. He is “merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love” (Ps. 103:8). He has made provision for all who call on his name to be saved (Rom. 10:13) and He, the LORD, will reign “forever and ever!” (Ex. 15:18)

In Christ,
The Laustsens and Murrays

