



Young's E-news from Marseille

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Craig and Katie Young

May 2024

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Olympic flame arrives in the port of Marseille

2600 years ago Greek fishermen founded the city of Massalia, now Marseille. To commemorate history, the flame left its home in Greece and traveled to Marseille on the *Belem*, Europe's oldest three-masted barque. The flame will travel all over France before arriving in Paris for the start of the 2024 games. Katie and Ukrainian refugee Mila were among the 230,000 spectators who welcomed the flame to Marseille on May 8th. Great fun and pride for our city and country!



Annual Marriage Seminar at the Chapel



Jeremiah Hostetter coordinated this year's marriage seminar (Feb); a joyful, uplifting day for the couples in the church, with multiple short messages (like Khaled's above right) and an artistic flair (at right). Katie and I led a time of praise and prayer from the Psalms. It's so important and encouraging to spend time honoring marriage! Love our young couples, too!



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Dedication for Daniel Presthus

We had been anticipating with joy the April visit of our grandson **Daniel** with **Emilie and Rob**. God orchestrated an unexpected blessing, the presence of **Esther and Jackson**, who had to cut short their visit to the Middle East because of the ongoing conflict. This allowed us all to be together as Daniel had the first opportunity to be with his Marseille church family, and to dedicate him to the Lord at the same time.



The Baby Boys Club



Daniel joins the baby boy club in Marseille. We are blessed to have **Élie** (Marvin and Alexia's son) **Joshua** (Simon and Anna's son), who are a part of CEM, as well as **Silas** (Mounir and Sorélia's son) and **Ézékriel** (Bernadette and Enguerrand's son), and grandson of **Amal**, who came to Marseille from Egypt.



Above: Mounir and Silas.

*Above right: Simon and Joshua
Djedjiga with Daniel*

*Above rt: Élie, Alexia, Marvin
Bernadette and Ézékriel
Right: Amal and Djedjiga*

A Rocha Events

In January we celebrated the first anniversary of the founding of **A Rocha Marseille**, the local group under Katie's direction. Morgana made a birthday cake (see below) and the group gathered to give praise to the Creator, pray for the création and contemplate how we can better love the Creator and the creation in the coming year. We aim to have 5 gatherings per year.

In April we hosted the annual weekend meeting of the **A Rocha** local groups' leaders. **AR ambassdors** came from all over France to be encouraged and challenged to take an active role in protecting God's creation and encourage other christians to do so.

Blowing out the candle as A Rocha Marseille turns 1.



Gathering of A Rocha local group leaders



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New Property in Service

Expanding the *Chapelle de Fuveau Church*



On February 2nd we signed to officially purchase the property right behind the church. The purchase includes a four bedroom home, a 700 sq ft outbuilding, and the largest yard in the neighborhood. Everyone chipped in to accomplish the necessary renovations, both inside (at left) and outside (below). Our co-workers the Hostetters moved in to the house at the end of March and were already at work hosting a church potluck after Daniel's dedication in April (above right).



In May, after a fun, dual concert at the chapel (see paragraph next page), we

Top: Mounir installs the plumbing and electricity.

Above: Rémi installs the kitchen.

Below: A coffee break after hard work of landscaping



*Above: Hosting the first church picnic on the new property.
Below: A shared meal for the Harmony Chorus and our guests, a Swiss men's choir from near Bern.*



hosted a beautiful outdoor meal for 70 (above). A week later Jeremiah invited everyone for a meal to honor the visit of my sister Ellen. It was beautiful to see so many people, church family and friends, come together and have the space to do so! Lots of good conversations!

The Betheline Monastery

As we shared in our last newsletter, for seven years we have been praying in pursuit of a dream: a Christian Outreach Center to host our missional hub in Marseille.

We came to the table to sign for the **Betheline Monastery** on February 2nd. However, our notary and lawyer noticed a change in the agreement and asked the current owners to revise the offer.

We anticipated a response in one week that never came. **Instead, to our great disappointment, the owner withdrew the offer to sell.**

We invited you to join us in a time of prayer and fasting for this project. We have been praying for 7 years, and we are ready to pray for 7 more. But we are praying actively. That is, we continue to communicate with the owner and pursue every possible means to complete the purchase .



Above: The Betheline Monastery in Marseille.

Please continue to pray! We have been back in discussion with the owner and are in the process of submitting a new offer! We ask you to accompany us in prayer as we do so.

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Spring Concert with Special Guest



Harmony Chorus

This year's spring concert of the Harmony Chorus was a powerful proclamation of Jesus' resurrection. The April 13th event had a few unique highlights that made the night extra special. First, **Emilie & Rob and Daniel** were here on a visit, and they were able to step in and sing the entire concert with us! On top of that, **Keith and Sharon Lancaster** were also in town and we had the special joy of incorporating these 'musicianaries' (as Keith likes to call himself) into the concert for a few numbers. In the past, we have participated in Praise and Harmony recordings with them, and Craig, along with CEMiste Simon Richard, will be participants at Worship Leader Institute this year, in June, under Keith's direction.

The final highlight came from the teens, who performed a powerful mime of the life of Jesus.

Just a month later, on May 19, we hosted a dual concert organised by *ChoralEvents*. The Harmony Chorus praised the Lord in song before welcoming the Men's Choir from Gibloux, Switzerland. Their repertoire included traditional songs, and sacred songs from Germany, Russia and England.

Combined concert on May 19th.

Below: The Harmony Chorus and the Men's Choir from Gibloux, Switzerland

*Above left: « I've still got joy! » with Keith Lancaster
Above right: Katie and I have the joy of singing 'Glory and Honor' with Emile and Rob and Keith and Sharon Lancaster*



Above: A highlight of the evening, powerful and profound - the teens perform a mime on the life of Jesus (an encore performance at the Ascension retreat, right).



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The Mission Beyond Marseille

CEM (Christians on Mission) continues its involvement in service in Mo.rocce. We helped **Maredith** take her first steps towards realizing the dream of creating a center for handicapped children on property belonging to the family farm run by her parents, **Henry & Coco**.

This year's CEM group also spent time in the village and serving at another center for people of handicap in the city of Ouarzazat, over the Atlas mountains at the doorway to the Sahara desert.

Awesome trip for our students and for deepening ties with these dear servants. A trip for 2025 is already in the works!



*Up: Beginning construction of 'One World'. Rt: Maredith
Below: Coco & Henry; Couscous with local workers.*



English Naturally

Our 2nd annual English retreat at Centre Bonnefoi was an adventure through Scotland, South Africa, Australia and Canada! All the participants received a « passport » upon arrival and lived a great English speaking retreat.



Left: Campfire. Above: Braving the cold at English Naturally.

Jeremiah and Brittney Hostetter led the way. I taught the Biblical message each day as we followed the footsteps of the faith of Abraham.



Sponsoring Promis

In January, our church was excited to start sponsoring a child through **SEL France**, the French version of *Compassion International*. Young **Promis** lives in Togo and we set up a rotation to pray for him and write him regularly. As God would have it, the SEL visit occurred the same weekend that the A Rocha ambassadors were here. The two organisations now have a partnership, which makes sense : although the changing environment impacts all of us, the disproportionate devastation upon the most defenceless must break God's heart. Join us in praying for Promis and « the least of these ».



Ascension Retreat

The retreat for French-speaking churches featured all current teachers in the CEM program teaching one of their classes. We had great participation, the Centre was filled!

*Above: CEMistes serving ice cream
Left: 130 in attendance for the retreat*

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Family & Friends



Having everyone together in Marseille in April was a real treat for Katie and me. Emilie and Rob were here with **Daniel** who is growing beautifully and making new friends, like his napping buddy Tom (right). Through challenging circumstances for Esther and Jackson, God made a way to have us all together for a few wonderful days. The rest of the time, Katie and I serve together with our multiple children in the faith in Marseille.



Above: Daniel and Tom
Left: Daniel in the same outfit as his mother at the same age (4mos.).



Esther & Jackson

We enjoyed a visit from Esther and Jackson in March, as they were on their way to Iraq. They had time to enjoy a meal with Khaled and Djedjiga (left) and celebrate Esther's birthday at church (rt).



But their travels to Iraq were interrupted by the conflicts in the Middle East and they were back in Marseille in April, overlapping with Rob and Emilie for a few days. Esther and Jackson are deep in prayer about their future. Please join us in praying for them!

Emilie & Rob and Daniel

had a wonderful visit in April. Daniel was introduced to his French family. Emilie and Rob were able to flawlessly step right in and sing our Spring concert and also enjoy singing at the Silvacane monastery with Keith and Sharon. They also had time to renew with many of their Marseille friends.



Emilie will be returning in June via a business trip to Spain after which she and Daniel will get to spend CEM été summer mission week in Marseille.

In April, Katie and I got to attend the 100th birthday party of the mother of our dear friends. Another unique event to add to a year of several 'once in a lifetime' s !

Above: At the Silvacane monastery with Keith and Sharon Lancaster.
Right: Nasy's delicious Afghan cuisine
Below: Visit from Dale & Vickey Hawley. We love these guys!



Nasy

We had the great surprise of the visit from our adopted daughter Nasy. By God's grace she received her papers in Germany and can now travel. She joined us for the Ascension retreat and a short stay in Marseille when she saw everyone at church.



We love you and thank God for you! Craig & Katie