

Transformation: a personal story; a church story



Greetings from Grenoble,

This is a photo of members of our **church**. We had a "church week-end" together last week. Our theme was "serving in the church with the gifts of the Holy Spirit". The week-end together highlighted the degree to which God has transformed and healed this church. From being close to splitting in two, it's become a body that wants to serve the Lord and make His name known in Grenoble. It's been one of our greatest subjects of joy to have been used by God to help in this process of transformation.

One of the church's activities this past year has been to offer an Alpha Course. <https://alphausa.org> This is a way to introduce people to Christ, the Bible and Christianity. **Mary** is the mother of one of our active members. She is the typical French grandmother who grew up

in the Catholic tradition, then fled from the church, then, in later years, came somewhat back. Several weeks ago she gave her life to Jesus Christ for the first time and since then has been fairly glowing with new life. How exciting is it to see a woman in her 70's almost giddy with joy at the newfound ability to "see" like never before? She told us with pride a couple of weeks ago, "my friends are starting to ask me, "Mary, what's happened to you? You've changed.""

About the same time, **Lara**, a student from Lebanon, called me. She had left Grenoble and moved to Paris. I met her when I was doing the coffee table ministry in the student building. She is from a Maronite family and didn't know much of anything about Jesus. She spent some time with us and with our MBB group, several of whom shared their testimony of coming to Jesus Christ from Islam. Lara called me several months ago in order to tell me that she had accepted Jesus and really wanted me to know. Shortly afterward we found out that she was convened by her family in Lebanon. They had heard her speak about Jesus and wanted an explanation. She traveled to see her family, sharing with all of them about her new faith in Jesus.

We were told before coming to France about the difficulty of ministry where there isn't much fruit. It can be a struggle to keep going if we don't see the power of God at work. It's true that what is happening here is not as spectacular as what is happening in some other places around the world. But it IS happening, and it is encouraging and motivating. We praise God for every example of transformation that we see.



The church worshipping during the week-end away.



Message from the Island of Malta



Top left: I was sitting at McDonalds for a time of sharing with a man that I'm mentoring and the mountains were so beautiful that I had to take a picture from where I was sitting.

Top right: This is a picture taken near Grenoble when Jennifer and I went for a motorcycle ride last Saturday.

Bottom left: The Easter morning prayer warriors praying for the city of Grenoble from atop the Bastille, or the fort, overlooking the valley. We had good weather last year and since we only get that once in every five or six years, we had to content ourselves with normal Easter morning weather.

Bottom right: This is our daughter Katrina, her husband Micah, the two kids, Theo and Ariadne, along with the pastor who performed our marriage, Bill Riggs. Bill has been a big help to Micah and Katrina. They are leaving to do ministry work in the Grand Canyon and Bill helped them with channeling gifts that people wanted to give in support of their work. They are leaving at the beginning of May.



Prayer

Thank you for your prayers for us.

For Lara as she grows in her new understanding of Jesus. She is having difficulty knowing what she should do next in terms of school. Part of her difficulty is that her boyfriend left her because of her new faith. This has shaken her.

For our Egyptian friend Mina who is to marry an American missionary, Nicole. We have been doing pre-marital counseling with them. This is especially necessary due to the fact that they come from two quite different cultures. (Mina called me to ask how he was supposed to

propose to Nicole. They do that sort of thing in a very different way in Egypt)

For our Alpha course which is going on right now. Two of the current participants have already given their lives to Jesus. Pray for Mary, a grandmother, and for Julie, a 15 year old high school student.

Please pray for Micah, Katrina, Theo and Ariadne as they leave for the Grand Canyon.

Please pray for our daughter, Simone, who will leave soon to do an internship for her cooking degree and will be working in Florence, Italy.



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