



Dear friends,

Autumn greetings to you from our small village, with its church steeple pointing to the heavens—a constant reminder that our efforts are ultimately meaningless if they do not somehow point to the One that sent His Son into this broken aimless world in order to reconcile us to Himself.

These autumn months have kept us busy doing what we love most: welcoming and caring for God's servants so that they can pursue their calling with greater effectiveness, balance, passion and strength.

Which Way?

What do you do when you've been serving on the mission field and your elder teen wants to leave in order to

live in your home culture, but your younger teen wants to continue living in the place where you are serving?

As a parent, do you try to persuade the older one to stay on the field for a year or two longer because it's your calling and because the workers are few and the needs are great?

Or do you try to help the younger child accept that you will only stay on the field for as long as every family member agrees to?

Or do you tackle the issue from another angle? Do the parents decide and the children simply follow? At what age and at what stage do the children get to have their say?

This is the kind of issue that can come up during a debriefing session. Our role is not to decide for the family, but to provide a safe space for discussion and reflection, allowing families to weigh all the factors, listen to one another, listen to God, and try to discern the best solution.

Victim, Perpetrator and Promoter



It's a church movement that introduced you to Christ and in which you met your spouse, raised your family and fellowshiped for most of your life. You felt called into ministry and you dedicated many years of your time and energy to planting a new church. And now you have come to realize that you are part of a cult.

Once the reality of the situation sinks in, you feel shocked, hurt, betrayed and guilty. You have been both victim, perpetrator and promoter of an abusive and legalistic system that controls its members, both through the fear of being shamed and humiliated if one's commitment is deemed under par, and through threats of divine punishment.

In recent months our team has helped several people in positions of leadership to heal from the damage of what looked like a bona fide Christian movement. The victims are in the thousands, and the fallout has divided friends and families, with much sadness and pain...

It's when you come face to face with the devastating effects of counterfeit Christianity that you appreciate God's mercy and grace all the more.



Team News & Family News

Our team is keeping well, and serving together is a wonderful ongoing blessing and privilege.

We are still hoping to expand our team by integrating a new couple, either in 2022 or 2023. Their names are Joel and Deborah. Please pray for them.

In preparation for our team's expansion, purchasing the small property that is adjacent to ours is still part of the plan, and we are so incredibly thankful for those of you that God has nudged to help us. Approximately one third of what is needed has been raised. We thank God for this!



Please pray that the remaining amount will come in so that we can be ready to make an offer as soon as the house becomes available.

If you'd like to help us, please go to MSC Canada's "[PIERRES VIVANTES BUILDING FUND](#)".

The owners (whom we only see every few years, while the house remains sadly empty), had told us they were hoping to come in the autumn, but now it won't be until the spring. Our hope and our prayer is that we will be able to have a positive conversation with them about our need and interest in the property, which we have expressed in the past and which we hope to express again. Please pray that we will come to an understanding.

In the meantime, we want to be patient, submit to God's timing, and rest in His purposes.

Our Christmas plans on hold

Sadly, our plans to see our three children at Christmas are falling through. We are in four countries, and restrictions on travel are increasing once again as Europe grapples with rising infection rates and the Omicron variant. It will be their first Christmas without us, and probably without each other.

Prayer Item

- Jonathan has a lot of travel lined up, both within France and internationally, between January and March, for various training events and conferences in which he is involved. It is frustratingly difficult to plan and prepare for things that may not happen, and getting from A to B is also an uncomfortable challenge. Please pray for safety, wisdom and patience.

We wish you a very blessed Christmas season, no matter where you are or the circumstances. May the presence and love of Jesus be your greatest joy.

With our loving greetings,

Jonathan and Rachel

If you would like to help us come alongside God's workers to help them manage the pressures of serving Him in challenging places, tax-deductible giving can be made to: **MSC Canada** and designated for "**Association Pierres Vivantes**".