

3 rue Flora Tristan
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France
December 2023

Dear Friends,

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and every blessing for 2024. May our all-powerful God continue to grant you his peace and his joy !

This time last year, we wrote about Anne's cancer. Her illness has continued to affect our lives in 2023, of course, but throughout the year we've been aware in so many ways of God's sovereignty and loving care.

Anne has been cared for at home since mid November. The hospital provides the necessary equipment (a hospital bed, an oxygen supply 24 hours a day etc) while a nurse and an auxiliary come to the house morning and evening to make sure she's comfortable. She found a recent three week stay in hospital very tiring, and we're so grateful that she can now stay in the comfort of our own home. Our three children come to help whenever they can, and we enjoy visits from members of our church. Last Sunday, a small group even came after the morning service to sing Christmas carols outside our living room window!

As Anne's full time primary carer, Allan is no longer able to take part in church services, and his preaching and other responsibilities are covered by others. Three people were baptised in October: a couple who have recently moved to the area and a young man from a Christian family. As always, a great encouragement to the church!

Jean-Louis, who took over as editor of the *Vivre Aujourd'hui* gospel calendar last year, leads a good team of correctors etc, and we're glad to see this ministry continue to progress.

We have a lot of joy in seeing our children and their spouses seek to honour God in their own families, and it was a real pleasure to watch and listen on our computer as two of our grandchildren were baptised: Nathan in January, Léonore in September. We wish we could have been present, of course, but haven't travelled this year, apart from attending hospital appointments. And how glad we are to have moved from Le Havre to Yzeure: less than half the distance for family to visit us!

Stephen and Héléna's family: Léonore (19) is now enjoying her 2nd year at Glasgow University. She's joined a good church with an effective student ministry, and is also involved in the Christian Union. Scotty (17) will sit his final baccalauréat exams in June, and is looking into options for further studies. A very keen cyclist, he can clock up some

impressive mileages! Lysandra (13) sails easily through her school work and is learning to play the harpsichord.

Rachel and Eddy: Eddy continues leading student ministry in Besançon, while Rachel enjoys helping women across France study and teach the Bible to other women. Their three children (Nathan, 15, Sarah 13 and Odeya are at various stages of senior high, junior high and primary school.

Jonathan and Priscille were delighted earlier this year to tell us that Abigaëlle's hip joint is now healed, according to the latest x-ray. Praise the Lord with us for that, and join us in declaring that God is good!

Again, we wish you every blessing for Christmas and the New Year.

Allan and Anne.