

van Eijden Times

march 2015



Bonjour !

The weather here is up and down. Sometimes we still have to scrape the car in the morning, and then in the afternoon we can sit outside on our patio (which is the warmest place in Tours) without a coat and enjoy the warmth of the sun.



What to write, where to start? You had better hold on to something! Looking back on what (still) is going on, we see and experience a lot of sickness. We know of several people with a brain tumor, while others are struggling with the flu. Jody has sudden intense pain attacks in her arm. Jan-Willem has lost his appetite and is tired all the time. This means visits to doctors, blood tests, and the like. Meanwhile we are also faced with death. In the last six months, we have lost two friends (young ones), while two people in our church council have lost a parent each. This is

of course the reality of life in this fallen world, and it is only a part of more. It is so easy to get "tunnel vision" or to close our heart off just so not to feel the pain and survive ourselves... or we can actually open our heart and cry with our family and friends.

Last year our church theme was "Cultivons notre coeur!" (Let's cultivate our heart!), and this year it is "Suis-moi, dit Jésus" (Follow me, says Jesus). In moments of challenge and heartache, we see the value of God's teachings and leading.

Though our hearts are aching, we are encouraged, very much so, by how God edifies his church and transforms people. First of all, we are encouraged by how people strengthen themselves in Christ (Ephesians 6:10) and continue to walk with God in spite of the hardships. And secondly, people say that they feel supported and strengthened by those who pray for them. Let me tell you just one story.



Two weeks ago, Jody came home late after a women's Bible study and told me about Amen's distress. (Amen is the husband of the lady who hosted the study). His boss had just asked him to do something fishy and Amen was wrestling with how to respond. He could not see a way out. For quite a while now, I have been encouraging him to find a fixed moment in the day to spend time with God and read the Bible.



Anyway, the Saturday before, Amen had told me how he has started to set time aside to pray. Every day at 4 pm, he goes into an empty office, shuts the door and prays for 10 to 15 minutes. So when I heard from Jody about Amen's problem, I knew I needed to exhort him to trust God and not let the devil trap him.



I told him that I wasn't surprised by this "sudden" attack, since he had just committed himself to honor God by setting time aside for Him. Amen told me later that the exhortation had encouraged him to seek God and to do what is right. And so at his desk before writing up an illicit contract, he prayed that God would show him a way out. And God did! Amen called one of the key persons concerned and told the whole story. Later in the day, that person told Amen's boss that she wasn't interested in the project anymore. And so by following up the thought God had given on the spot, the project fell through, and Amen didn't have to write a bogus contract.

Afterwards, Amen shared more with me and told about how he now prays beforehand that God will guide him, when he needs to write or do something. He said: "It is amazing how God gives wisdom! I used to think that I should only pray for the really important things, but now I have discovered that I can pray for ordinary things as well!"

Indeed our heavenly Father loves and cares for us!
This knowledge and experience helps us to continue to work for His glory!

Thank you for your much needed support in prayer and in finances! I couldn't tell you enough how much that makes a difference in our lives, and for those around us. Please continue!

With much love from us,

Marc, Jody

Jan-Willem, and Jack

If you would like to support our ministry, know that you can also give online. Thank you very much! <http://ecmi-usa.org/get-involved/give/>
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