

John and Sue Wilson

Mission matters!

May 2021

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Hello,

Mission matters to God and so it needs to matter to us as well. Over the last few months our Church council and congregation have been thinking about our values. We have worked together on a mission statement to help us think through what we are doing and why we are doing it. This is what we came up with:

"Christ nous accueille, nous restaure et nous équipe pour vivre et partager la bonne nouvelle" (Christ welcomes us, restores us and equips us to live and to share the Good News)

We held a church weekend online to think through the implications of the 3 active verbs: welcome, restore and equip, which create the infinitive verbs: to live and to share. The French enjoy their grammar and conjugation is often used to illustrate the thought process!

Welcome: The church has long been a place of welcome due to its position in Paris. Students and people on the move often find their home with us. Whilst the winter provision of a meal for the homeless came to an end in April, the lifting of certain Covid restrictions, has enabled us to start up again our apéritif after the Sunday service; though this now happens outside. The children and youth work is a major element in our welcome strategy. Marie-Noëlle who oversees this ministry has a fantastic memory for names and enables families to quickly integrate into the life of the church.



Restore: Restoration is an ongoing work of grace. In French the word can also refer to being fed (from which we get the word restaurant) as well as repairing something old or broken. Indeed physically we need good food and rest to be restored. In the Bible, salvation is used in this restorative sense of spiritual and physical health. How important it is for our churches to be places where restoration takes place. So many people are worn out and hungry to find a purpose in life. Through our worship, teaching and small groups, we pray that our church will be a wholesome place, where people can know God's healing and saving presence.

Please pray for Aurélie and Magali who are currently thinking about baptism and pray that our home groups will find a way to gather people next year, whatever restrictions may or may not exist.



Equip: Equipping leaders is our passion. Sue has started a leadership training course for 8 of the young adults who have come through her new Christians group. With the help of other pastors from our Federation, they are meeting once a week online to explore leadership principles through various Bible characters.

John is preparing to hand over his leadership of the ministry commission and has invested his time in preparing Stéphane to take on this role after the summer. Stéphane is a pastor in the eastern suburbs of Paris. He came to Christ through hitching a lift in a car full of pastors who gave him a Bible to read. How important it is to pass on what we have freely received!



As well our church weekend online, we also took part this month in a European Baptist Retreat organised by the Mission core group of the EBF (see photo), of which Sue is a member. The theme "Peace be with you" was taken from John 20:19-23. We explored the peace of Christ that comes to us when we are behind closed doors, when we touch his wounds, and when he sends us out in mission. John was asked to speak on the mission theme and it was good to be reminded that God's mission of peace, love and joy changes the world. We pray that you too will experience this, as Mission matters!

Thank you for your prayers and support of BMS World Mission. We will be visiting some of you this summer and others in November. Don't forget to contact BMS if you want further information about how you can support us or invite us to meet your church. Thank God for those who send as well as for those who are sent!

With love,

John & Sue

If you would like to support John and Sue Wilson by prayer and committed regular giving, visit bmsworldmission.org/partners or call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet.



PO Box 49 129 Broadway Didcot Oxfordshire OX11 8XA Tel: 01235 517700
mail@bmsworldmission.org bmsworldmission.org

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