

John and Sue Wilson

Overflowing joy!

May 2023

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Hello,

Overflowing joy is the theme of this month's prayer letter. We are so thankful to God for all we have enjoyed since we last wrote. This included Easter celebrations, our church week-end, a holiday in the sun, a visit from top-class musicians from the United States, the national Baptist Gathering and Pentecost. As Paul says in 2 Corinthians 9:8 "God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done." (The Message)

The church was overflowing with joy at Easter as two of our young people gave testimony to the way that Christ had changed the direction of their lives. The church itself was full to overflowing and having shared breakfast together before the service, everyone stayed on to celebrate with another meal that went on until 4pm. Many visitors came and we were thrilled to meet people from various backgrounds including Jewish and Moslem, who were happy to join in our Easter celebrations.

One of our visitors was Camille who was one of the first people we baptised in Paris. She is now living in Lyon but it was wonderful to see how her faith is growing. She came to us having bought a Bible and wanting someone to explain it to her. Our next baptism in June will be a similar story of a young Chinese man who had no religious background other than his grandmother's reverence for the departed, but who decided to investigate Christianity. We will tell you more about his story next time!

Two weeks after Easter we went as a church to a Catholic centre on the north side of Paris. The theme for our weekend was "Our identity in Christ." As a church we have been focused on structural organisation and personnel development, so it was a great time to remind ourselves both of the privilege and the challenge of finding our identity in Christ. Few places in the world bring people together from such diverse backgrounds. Celebrating the love and grace of God helps us think about the challenges of healing in a fractured world, where so often the surrounding culture defines us rather than letting the message of the Gospel set us free.

After all these gatherings we were glad to get away together to celebrate our 38th Wedding Anniversary and to treat ourselves to some time on a Greek island enjoying the sun.



As soon as we got back from holiday we were hosting Fletch Wiley and his wife Kathryn along with a couple of other musicians who had flown in from the United States. All these musicians are in full-time music ministry having spent their time time touring with bands like "Sixpence none the richer" who have performed at Greenbelt. They felt called to come and give a week of encouragement to musicians in Paris. As well as a concert and a seminar on worship leading, our joy overflowed onto the street with a spontaneous Jazz Gospel concert that gathered quite a crowd.



No sooner had our visitors gone, than we travelled down to Grenoble for our annual gathering of the Baptist Federation. This Congress was significant for us as it marked the end of Sue's 12 years as a member of the National Council. This is an elected body of 13 people who are responsible for the oversight of our Federation of churches. Sue has been able to encourage both prayer, the development of work amongst young people and teenagers as well as the representativity of women throughout our structures. It was a great joy to see so many young people involved in the Congress meetings and to hear testimonies of lives changed through Connexion, which Sue was instrumental in setting up.

For Pentecost, John led a church weekend for the Massy church, whilst Sue preached in Paris. We were overflowing with joy when we came back together to tell of all that God had done.

Thank you for your faithful support in prayer. We will be in the UK to visit churches in October. If you would like us to visit, you must make contact with BMS World Mission who organise our itinerary. There are more days available in the week than on weekends!!

Yours in Christ,
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.



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