

Far More Abundantly | July 2012



by **David** on July 22, 2012 in **By David, Entrepierres Updates**

“Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? . . . Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the unbelievers seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

Matthew 6:26,31-33 (ESV)

“Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? Or if they ask for a fish, do you give

them a snake? Of course not! So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask Him.”

Matthew 7:7-11 (NLT)

Espèces

US credit and debit cards are not widely accepted in Europe unless they're "chip & PIN" cards. Currently, no US banks or credit companies publicly offer "chip & PIN" cards. We were headed off to France with no cash and no promise that our cards would work here. We thought it would be a good idea to get some euros in hand before heading out. Where can you get euros in the US . . . without getting ripped off? I've been doing freelance design work on the side for about 5 years. The last time I went over to one of my clients to finish up some work before leaving, I felt God asking me to specifically pray for some kind of provision from my client for this trip to show how great God really is. I nearly passed it off as a ridiculous thought or selfish request, but prayed anyway. "God, I'm not sure why You want me to ask this, but please show Your hand in providing something through my client." After working for a few hours, I was packing up and all of the sudden he jumped up and called out to his wife; "Where's that bag of "funny money" from all of our trips to Europe? I think I have a few euros that I want to give David." What?! Seriously?! I hadn't said anything to him about this need. Sure enough, he presented me with a crisp €20 bill. Now we had just enough for any little unexpected costs before we could figure out how to access our accounts in France.

Vélos

Rachel and I really enjoy riding bikes together. To help fund our adventures, we even started a small side business of buying, fixing up and selling vintage bikes. A few months before we felt led to Entrepierres I purchased a vintage inspired road bike at an amazing price (one of the best deals in my life). We also "upgraded" Rachel's trash-picked '70s Schwinn to a newer '70s Schwinn that was in better overall shape with all the original factory installed accessories. We were set for some serious bike riding this summer! God had a different idea . . . and our "new" bikes were not part of it. We knew that riding our bikes this summer was going to be something that we would miss a lot. I prayed that God would provide some bikes for us to use at Entrepierres. When we arrived we

were informed that there were a number of bikes we could use and, when I checked out the situation, I found two really cool vintage French road bikes. I cleaned and tuned them up and we went out for our first ride. Even after making all the proper adjustments, the one Rachel was riding had very little braking force, which isn't that great for all the hills here, and the one I was riding was too small for me. We decided that Rachel could ride the working one and we would start looking around for one better suited to me. The following Sunday we were invited over to dinner by a couple from the local church. During conversation, it came up that I enjoyed road biking and our host got excited and exclaimed: "Oh! I have a road bike that I haven't ridden in years. You're more than welcome to use it this summer!" He led me into his garage to show me the road bike. It fit perfectly! He also had the correct size bike shoes, gloves and helmet! Did someone say Tour de France?

Chaussures

I grew up living in a constant home construction zone . . . and that is not a complaint. I have a father-in-law who has a "farm" with lots of little ongoing projects too. (I haven't quite worked 7 years for Rachel yet, so I guess I've married here on credit?) I've enjoyed the work project experiences and they definitely helped prepare me for some of what we're doing here. However, building construction around here is a little different than back home. Instead of tar paper and shingles, roofs are made with heavy clay tiles. Instead of 2x4s and sheetrock, walls are made with solid stone and plaster. Sneakers and cargo shorts weren't going to cut it here. I was going to need some heavy duty work gear. Carhartts . . . check. Gloves . . . check. Steel toe boots . . . NO check. Even if I could quickly find and afford a decent pair of steel toe boots it would mean leaving out other necessities in our limited available packing space. I prayed that God would figure this one out for me too. Most of the work I've been doing so far has only required sneakers, but last week we were asked to come and help with part of the local church building renovation and I was asked if I had proper boots. The caretaker here said: "No? I think someone left a pair here that might fit . . . try these on. They're steel toe too!" Again . . . a perfect fit!

Ci-dessus & Au-delà

Rachel commented that it didn't seem "fair" that I kept specifically praying for things and God was answering them above and beyond my expectations.

Honestly, I felt a little selfish too. I asked her what she needed most and she said that she felt discouraged on a number of different levels but specifically related to (1) encouragement in the labor here; (2) support from people at home; and (3) more involvement within the community around Entrepierres. We prayed that God would answer these concerns of her heart. The very next morning a man from the local church dropped by and saw all the gardens that Rachel had been working on. He complemented her hard work and said that they all looked beautiful. Other people also noticed that day and passed on their encouragement. Later, she received a few emails from people who have been involved in this type of work before and could share in her struggles and concerns. They happily offered their support in advice and prayer. Lastly, we were invited over by some guests to a game night and then dinner the next night with some of the other guests. Both were wonderful times and greatly appreciated! Even just tonight we had dinner with another couple here and we have plans for a game night tomorrow!

“Now to Him who is **able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think**, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”
Ephesians 3:20 & 21 (ESV)