

Reflections on a Year | Jan 2013



by [Rachel](#) on January 1, 2013 in [By Rachel, Reading PA Updates](#)

If you had asked me in January 2012 to plan out how I thought my year would look, I can guarantee you it would have looked nothing like the crazy adventure the year turned out to be. In fact, I did begin making some “plans” early on in the year. I commented that we’d never travel to Europe again and never move out of Pennsylvania. I made a goal after getting out of debt to reach the next Dave Ramsey Financial Peace Baby Step: starting to save up money to cover 3-6 months of expenses.

It’s been said that if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans. I don’t know if God necessarily laughed at my little “plans,” but he certainly worked on my heart to show me that He had bigger, better plans for us. Better plans than staying where I was comfortable in so many ways and better than having money in the bank. I can’t imagine the person I would be today if I hadn’t trusted God and stepped out of my comfort zone to let Him shape me into the person He wants me to be.

Over the summer, we followed God's clear leading to serve in the practical ministry (gardening, maintenance) of Entrepierres, a guest center for Christian workers in France for two months. Our goal while we were there was to determine how God can best use our lives for His glory: whether it would be to return to Entrepierres long-term, to be part of a ministry elsewhere or to remain in Reading for the time being.

We had much to process when we returned home from our week of training, two months abroad and one week at a European Christian Workers' Conference. During the Christian Workers' Conference, we heard again and again of the need for young people to come and serve overseas. We still feel God leading us to bring His light to a dark corner of the Earth, but the details regarding the "what" and the "when" are not exactly clear at this point.

Coming to a decision for our *immediate* future was no easy task and required much prayer and seeking wise council. Further training and experience in discipleship and evangelism in the US were greatly encouraged by many of the Christian workers we met overseas as well as by many of our mentors here. So for the time being, we have made a decision to remain in Reading where we can get great Bible training and have the opportunity to serve in our local church and community. We are still eagerly awaiting and praying for our next assignment from God.

Here are some specific ways you can pray for us as we serve and prepare while living in Reading, Pennsylvania:

- Diligence for in-depth Bible training:
Taking night classes at Lancaster Bible College (working towards a certificate in Biblical Studies)
Matthew Bible study with Keith Keyser
Genesis study with Bible Study Fellowship (Rachel)
- Involvement in ministries of Reading City Church & outreach community groups
- Opportunities to share the gospel & encourage to those we interact with
- Continued opportunities to volunteer our time in the needy city of Reading
- Wisdom for our future work situations
- Clarity for "next assignment"