

Anything But Normal | May 2015



At one of our last church visits before we came to France, a long-time family friend said to us: “Once you get there and settled in, it will be just like living as normal, right?”

This is my last month of intensive language classes before we come back to the States for a few weeks this summer to see family and friends and help out at camp. I am now in the B2.0 level class. Most days consist of reading articles and discussing our thoughts on the topic or how our culture is similar or different which can be particularly difficult with a limited (though growing) vocabulary. Rachel is still being tutored by another missionary and attending weekly language groups and French cooking classes around the city to help increase her proficiency.

Our 1998 VW Polo (mini) station wagon is running well and proving to be very helpful for the various and many errands we run around here. It has reliably and safely transported students, large amounts of groceries (for hungry students), many bags of mulch and topsoil, plants and other gardening supplies, a lawnmower, large rocks (my brother would be

proud), pallets, used furniture and of course bikes. Although small, a little rusty and often quirky, we are thankful that God has provided this perfect car for us here.

We have had a total of 6 successful student work days and have made some serious progress in getting things to where they're supposed to be around here. Though it is in good shape (thanks to the previous caretakers) there is still much to do, but we have all of the next school year (and Lord willing many more years) for that. The garden has been completely redone and is packed with healthy fruits, vegetables and herbs that are really enjoying the recent alternating days of bright sun and heavy rain. The basement shop is almost ready to be put back to productive use in maintaining the house and property and we will soon be able start work on the sports/storage room and other projects. (If you would like to know how to help the FEU out with some of these projects, check out: www.grenoble.lefeu.org/projects)

In two weeks we will head to a camp in the mountains for the year-end student retreat. Exams will be over so they will be able to fully enjoy the time away hanging out, relaxing, hiking, learning from God's Word and worshipping together. We are planning on introducing a few new-to-France camp games and activities (think Mission Impossible, Steal the Bacon, Yoga Boulder Dash, etc.).

This Sunday we will be running up to Geneva to pick up a group of students from Olivet University (Chicago) who are here for a short term missions trip. They will be spending time at one of the nearby camps before coming here to help out with some of the projects we have going on. Pray that this short time might inspire and spur some of them on to full-time service in the plentiful harvest around the world!

Many nights over the past 8 months we have gone to bed completely exhausted after a busy day of language classes, running errands, gardening, fixing things, cleaning, making meals, and hanging out with students and friends, only to wake up the next morning to do it all over again. We are pretty settled in here and this has become our new "normal" way of life, just slightly different from before ;-). Sometimes we're

overwhelmed but when we see fruit being produced and lives being changed it makes it all worth it and we wouldn't want it any other way. Please pray for all of the events and activities we mentioned above, that everything would work together to show those around us the anything but normal life God has in store for those who know Him!

David et Rachel

"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." – Jesus (John 10:10 NKJV)

For more information, you can check out our profile on our missions support organization's website: <http://www.cmml.us/missionaries/m1985>