

## It is Finished | November 2015



"When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished," and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit." (John 19:30 ESV)

My (David's) parents were just here for the past two weeks helping with much needed bathroom renovations at the FEU. You might remember the flood stories we've shared in the past, the greatest of which happened the very night we arrived a little more than a year ago. In an attempt to deal with the source of the problem directly, it was decided to remove the full bathroom in the basement (from which all waste water needed to be pumped up to the main drain line) and convert one of the half bathrooms on the main floor into a shower-only room so waste water could drain more "naturally". We also decided to tackle our bathroom in the apartment to make it more useful and accommodating in anticipation of our soon-to-be-born little boy. Before my parents came, I drew up all the plans and had everything worked out so we could get right to work. Two full weeks to get two bathrooms done? No problem. Well, the two weeks of 12+ hour work days have passed, my parents have gone home, and we still have two partially completed bathrooms to finish. Many times during the project we'd get to a good stopping point and say "well, that's

finished" only to have to go back and redo it due to some unforeseen problem later. I learned many things during this project (practically, personally, relationally and spiritually) but one thought was on my mind the entire time: my definition of "finished" is not God's definition of "finished". We are never really ever finished with things since there will always be more work to do tomorrow. And, what we do (partially) finish is never perfect since there is always room for improvement and eventually it will break or fall apart even if it was designed "to last a lifetime". Now, when Jesus said "it is finished", His definition was far better. His work on the cross to satisfy the just wrath of God against sin was 100% full and complete. Man can't add a single drop of sweat to what was done there. And, His work on the cross was perfect. It will never have to be, nor could it ever be, redone or improved upon even by God Himself. There is great relief in knowing and trusting that Jesus was able to say "it is finished".

This weekend is the FEU student retreat at Camp des Cimes up in the mountains. We have about 45 students coming for a weekend away full of great activities, food, hiking, worship and sound Biblical teaching. Pray for us!

We just had a check-up this past week and both Rachel and our soon-to-be-born little boy are healthy and doing well.

Thank you all for your prayers, encouragement and support. We are grateful every day.

PS - We can also find great relief in knowing and trusting that "He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:6 ESV)

And finally, for those interested in reading more, below is an update from the last few months: It's been an exciting start to the new school year and there is much to praise our great God for!

We've started a Sunday night dinner and Bible discussion event in English for the growing international student community. It's called "Life Skills : Insights from the Bible for a life well lived." Around 30 students from

literally all over the world (India, China, Germany, Columbia, Hungary, Great Britain, France, and the United States) come and break up into smaller groups around a table and some great food. As the salad is served, a question about life is asked to get the conversations at each table going. During the main course, the Biblical perspective on that question is shared to the entire group. And finally, while dessert is being enjoyed, a challenge is given to each person to see what difference the Biblical perspective on the topic might make in our lives. Appropriately for international university students trying to find their way in a new place, we've been looking at three of the biggest questions one might ask themselves: Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going?. Everyone has really enjoyed it and the follow-up conversations have been very encouraging.

The French dinner and Bible study has grown tremendously since last year and we are almost exceeding our maximum occupancy of 70 people every time! After a meal together, there is a message from the book of Romans followed by discussion groups lead by the Christian student leaders (Sherpas). Rachel and I have been leading the English discussion group. There is also a "discovery group" for the many non-Christians who come and are interested in learning more. We have seen a lot of enthusiasm surrounding this main event with the Sherpa. They have also been very active in the daily life here at the FEU during the rest of the week. Pray for their continued spiritual growth and overflow in service to those around them.

Panier Partage (the food bank distribution) has been going well and we are thankful for the resources we have to share with the many international students in need. It has been great to see the FEU students and Sherpa getting more involved in reaching out to the world mission field on our doorstep. There is a large Spanish-speaking group that comes regularly and we are trying to get a few of them connected with a Colombian missionary family that just arrived to minister here in France.

All in God's great timing!