

Our last update was about a month ago, so I figured it was time to let you know how we've been doing since then. Not much new has happened, but many of you have been asking, so here goes ☺

The kids have been going to school for about 5 weeks now, and they still really like it! As I write this Noah is beside me on the couch with a bit of the flu. I asked him if he wanted to stay home from school tomorrow and his immediate answer was "No!".



Waiting for Eline and Noah

Eline, Noah and Joshua are learning a lot about French, even though they are not really holding conversations yet. They often tell us how to pronounce words in French, and teach us new words. Noah taught me that a school backpack is *cartable*. I love it! ☺

I wrote in the last email that all three of them have made friends. Eline had one of her classmates over to play this past Saturday, and they appeared to have a lot of fun –

lots of giggling and motioning with their hands ☺. She insists that all the girls in her class are her friends, which I don't doubt. Noah finally started playing with other boys from his class during recess instead of just with Eline, and that is so great. He is naturally shy, and it's great to see him opening up. Noah also loves the class swimming lessons every Tuesday afternoon. He wasn't able to get his swimming diplomas when we were in the Netherlands, and this is a great and safe opportunity for him to proceed! Eline starts swimming with her class in January. She has already attained all 6 diplomas in the Netherlands (the highest you can get there) so we're curious to see what she can learn from her French instructors.

Joshua is generally everyone's friend and often yells "*Au Revoir!!!*" to other children while we bike to Eline and Noah's school to pick them up at the end of the day. (Sometimes he even adds a name ☺)



Joshua's school

Hanna is also learning French! Somehow, without us teaching her, she figured out when to say *Bonjour*, *Au Revoir* and *Merci* – so cute, and unbelievable! She loves her “free” mornings with Mama and Papa and busies herself with her puzzles, books and her babydoll and the house all to herself. Our daily routine includes taking a walk around the neighborhood, bringing the recycling away and saying hello to everyone we meet. This includes cats and dogs we may meet – every cat she sees is *Poes* and she always wants to pet them. We walk through the paths and streets and check out the other houses. That way we’re not just in our own house and yard the whole day.



*Stefan on his way home after
bringing the kids to school*

Stefan has finished building the storage space in our garage, including a real staircase so I don’t feel so scared going up there anymore. We are almost finished moving all of our boxes etc. from our friends’ garage and are in the

process of “re-organizing”. That is a job that won’t be done soon, but it’s coming along. I’ve come across a lot of kids’ and baby stuff we really shouldn’t have moved down here, so I managed to make some contacts in a French church and have found two families who would love to have them. That means a few boxes and bags and many items will be gone soon ☺

Stefan’s next job is to construct underground piping and sewer from our house to the shed attached so that we can put our washing machine out there instead of in the kitchen. He knows what to do and is waiting for drier weather – it will give us a lot more room in the kitchen and the opportunity to renovate inside as well, in the future.

My music classes haven't started yet - I'm not too worried about that seeing as the organization I would like to offer them through, Music Together, has just started a semester and the new one doesn't start until January. I have some new leads and have a few emails out there, and am waiting on a response from a British woman who offers similar classes to school age children. I have approached her about possibly sharing space or combining classes, we'll see what she thinks. In the meantime I am realizing it probably would have gone faster here locally had I been a French speaker ☺

On another note, we have met an American couple who are here in the Montpellier area with their three teenage daughters and are hoping to

start a church or help with an existing congregation. They have been in three different towns across France and are currently offering an English language Bible study at their home, but would really like to be able to include a church service. They are in the same situation we are as neither are pastors or have a seminary education, so they are looking for someone to come and strengthen their team that way, as are we.

This is an important Prayer request we have - that we would hear of a couple or family who is ready to come out to Montpellier and pastor with us. Stefan and I feel called to help start a church, but are not gifted to teach and preach, and really feel this is extremely important. We are staying in contact with these new friends and spent this past Sunday afternoon with them brainstorming about possibilities for us in Montpellier.

We also attended a French Church on Sunday - the first time in my life! I didn't understand much, but the sermon was easy to follow thanks to my English bible and an understanding of biblical language ☺. The kids liked the children's program and Joshua said afterwards that we should go more often "*because we can learn and practice our French easier this way*".

Many of you are praying for us, and for that we are extremely grateful. A few have also inquired about how we are financed without full-time (or part-time) jobs. This is where we

depend on donations from friends and family. If you are interested in financially supporting us as we start up a church here in Montpellier, you can send your donation to *Christian Associates*. I have included information for people living in the Netherlands, as well as those in Canada or the US. All donations are tax deductible!

In the Netherlands:

***Stichting Christian Associates
Netherlands
ABN AMRO Rekeningnummer:
474698084***

*Please include our names in the
information section:
Stefan and Rochelle van der Veer*

In the US there are two possibilities:

***The easiest way is to donate
online [here](#)***

Or mail your donation, with an accompanying piece of paper with our names on it, to the following address:

***Christian Associates International
18940 Base Camp Road
Monument, CO 80132
USA***

In Canada, you can mail your donation, also with a piece of paper with our names on it, to the following:

***Christian Associates International
Canada
c/o David Grant
P.O. Box 262
Cornwallis Park, NS B0S 1H0
CANADA***

Please contact us for more information, or click [here](#)

We appreciate knowing that, in addition to financial support, we are being supported in prayer. We know many cannot make the step we've made, but want to support us either way. Knowing this makes our work even more special for us, but also for those supporting us.

As I mentioned before, we appreciate your prayers, and ask that you continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers in the weeks and months ahead. Some important things to pray about are our kids and their adjustment to school and culture; how we interact with our neighbors and parents of children at school; our vision and plans for starting a church - something that is hard to do when you don't have any other team members; for potential couples and families who may be considering the move over here to join us; and for us as a family as we try to start relationships with other families in the area. Thank you for keeping us in your prayers!

We are planning a trip to the Netherlands in the end of October, and the week before we leave Stefan's mother and her husband will be visiting with us for about a week. When in the Netherlands we will be staying with a family who has graciously offered us their attic to sleep in - I don't know how much sleep will be happening, seeing as it's at one of Eline's best friends' house, but we'll see 😊.

We hope to attend our home church on the 25th and the kids will spend two days during the week with their old classes at their old school, De Fontein. We also hope to be able to bring back the last of our belongings we were not able to bring down in the summer and we hope to be able to catch up with friends and family.

I think that does it for now - hope to hear from you, otherwise, until the next newsletter 😊

Blessings,

Stefan & Rochelle
Eline, Noah, Joshua en Hanna

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