

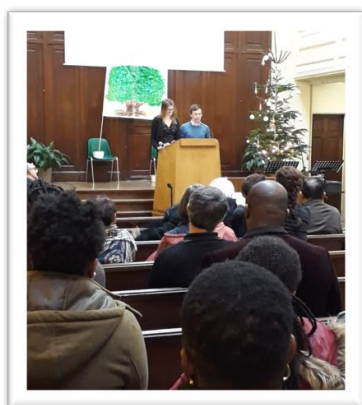
David & Lucy Morrison

Preparing for full-time service in Chad



HELLO FRIENDS,

“C’est pas vrai !”: In just a couple of days we will be back on the Emerald Isle having finished what has been a very fond chapter for us. Being our last update from here in France we can’t help but look back and praise our God for how he has sustained and blessed us, so forgive us if this one’s a little longer than usual! Naturally, the process hasn’t always been easy and the difficulties in communication have been, at times, a real test for us (and of course the source of many funny and embarrassing situations, but we will save those to tell you in person!) At the end of our first full year with the mission we feel it also has to be said once again how dearly we appreciate you all as our support network and the way you have faithfully upheld and encouraged us this year.



The past few months we have found ourselves able to get more and more involved in life and ministry here. We have had the opportunity to write and lead Bible studies, spoken in church, David lead a prayer and worship night at our church, Lucy was invited to present our future ministry at the annual women’s prayer day at the church... It has been really great to be able to serve the church again and also opened up fantastic ways to push our French to the next level, outside of the classroom.

WEEK-END DECONNECTE

At the start of November, we joined young adults from Baptist churches all over France for a weekend away. We used a tool called ‘Strengths Finder’ during the weekend, an initiative designed to help people discover their top five strengths and how they can maximise them. For those of you working in teams in churches or in the secular workplace, it’s really worth checking out. We were asked to share a bit about our own journey on the Sunday morning and we were so



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encouraged by the response we received. One of the leaders of the weekend felt it appropriate to give people an opportunity to support us in prayer and so we came away with lots of email addresses and a new challenge to set up a prayer letter in French! Any volunteers to proof read?!

TRANSITION

We now find ourselves in the middle of a time of transition, often a challenge in itself. Someone recently explained it to us with a picture of a rope bridge between a place of certainty and a new place of uncertainty, helping us understand the vulnerability that comes with a time of change. If you've ever crossed a rope bridge you will know that the further along you go, the more disconcerting your steps become, until you reach the other side. Much as we're looking forward to time in the UK and getting started in Chad, these next few months present somewhat of a 'limbo' for us as we pass between two seasons.

That being said, we very much look forward to catching up with as many of you as possible. We will arrive in Northern Ireland 23rd December and celebrate Christmas with David's family, before spending a couple of weeks in England in January. The plan is still to get to Chad around the end of February, God-willing. Between now and then we will also be studying: Islam, African Traditional Religions and a course on cross-cultural missions through All Nations College, as well as a security training course. It's imperative that we keep up our French too, and one idea we had was to have a French Bible study for a few weeks when we're home: Let us know if that would interest you, we would be delighted to take advantage of your skills!

We would also love to take this opportunity to wish each of you a very happy Christmas. We encourage you (and ourselves) to set aside precious time amidst the chaos to marvel at the mystery of a divine love so immense, that Jesus would give himself for us. And oh, may we adore him!



Lucy decorated our church window for Christmas



Final meal with all who started in Jan and stayed to the end

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HIGHLIGHTS

LUCY:

I feel especially blessed that God allowed us to have the Roux family so close to us here in Paris for this time. Being able to watch Hannah (2) and Naomi (1) grow and develop has been a real joy. Marjo and Romain have not only faithfully prayed with us but also fed us and hosted us which was at times a real sanctuary, away from the intensity of both living and studying at the language school. I also really appreciate each of you who have sacrificed your time and money to come and visit us and experience a little of our life here. We really treasure those memories.



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LESSONS

To be honest learning French has really brought me face to face with my own pride and where I place my value. David and I found ourselves together in a classroom situation for the first time and especially at the start, he picked up the French way better than I did. And it was actually really hard. But whilst far from perfectly, I've been able to slowly wrestle against that pride and have learnt so much from having to find the confidence to speak even in the knowledge that what is about to come out my mouth will most likely be full of mistakes.

DAVID:

The first time, around April, when we left church feeling like we had understood the sermon, also being able to lead a prayer and worship night in French at our church. Also men's weekend we spent in the pre-Alps with a handful of guys from our church and a church in Lyon - Incredible scenery and times of prayer too.



As Lucy shared, and as any language school graduate will tell you, you actually take two subjects at the school: French and humility. I think though as well God has used the language learning experience to teach me to more courageous and prepare me for a ministry that will inevitably involve approaching people I may not know.

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HOW YOU CAN PRAY FOR US

TRANSITION

- 🙏 That God would protect our minds and emotions during this transition and that we would be protected from the attacks of the enemy.
- 🙏 That God would sustain us through the goodbyes that await us as we leave France and again in Northern Ireland and England. Pray that God would protect us from feelings of guilt as we leave those we love. Saying goodbye to Lucy's two grannies will be an especially difficult time for us.

CHAD

- 🙏 For wisdom and discernment as we start to think about what we will take to Chad, we aren't yet sure how many suitcases we will be allowed.
- 🙏 Pray that God would provide for our needs and that we would be able to trust in him.

LANGUAGE TRAINING

- 🙏 Praise God for his faithfulness and provision this year through everything we have mentioned above!
- 🙏 We thank God that we have achieved the necessary level in our French studies
- 🙏 That we might retain (and improve) our French whilst in NI
- 🙏 For our various studies, that we would benefit well from them

DAVID & LUCY

- 🙏 Pray for Lucy's grandma who has Alzheimer's and who's condition is deteriorating. Pray for Lucy's family as they seek to make the right decisions and for Lucy to know how to support them in this time when it is difficult to be away from them.
- 🙏 Pray for us as we start up the French translation of our prayer letter, that we would have the time and ability to do it well. We praise God for this opportunity.

