

The French Press

With the James Carney Family

Dear Praying Friends,

November/December 2023

We rejoice that our son William (6) trusted Christ as his Savior on November 1st. He has been asking questions about salvation for a couple of years and we have been patiently working through the good news with him. We are very excited about his decision to receive Christ. **Please pray** that he would grow in the Lord.

We also rejoice that Brigitte received Christ as her Savior. Without our knowing she had been watching our services online for a few months. We met her at a ministry outreach in our church town's garage sale day ("Brocante") that we attended in September. At the brocante we were able to answer many of her questions. She finally got the courage to come to church a few weeks after and fell under conviction when she heard the gospel preached from **1 John 5.19-20**. She thought she was a believer but after the sermon I asked her if she wanted to meet with my wife and I to talk about it. She accepted and on the last Friday of 2023 she heard the gospel again and confessed Christ. **Please pray** for her spiritual growth.

We want to **thank you for praying** for our return to the States in 2024. We have all our passports renewed. We were also able to reserve a vehicle and purchase our tickets. **Please pray** for our safety as we travel, that we could encourage and bless those we meet along the way and that we would be able to raise the prayer and financial support we need.

We would like to request that you **please pray** for our boys' education as we are on the road. Zachary and William will be in French school while Declan is working on US homeschooling.

Finally, please pray for our church in our absence that God would bless Jim White as he fills in for us. Please pray that our church would continue to grow and to serve God. We have seen a great deal of spiritual growth in our church. Please pray for us to be faithful to God in all of 2024 and beyond!

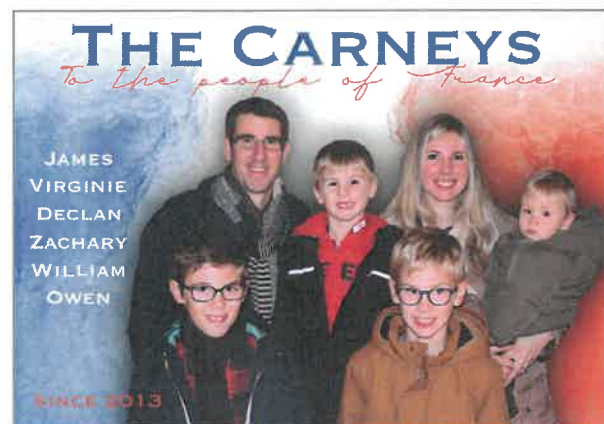
We hope and pray that 2023 was a blessed year for you. We grew in faith, knowledge and service to God and we are looking forward to the blessings and challenges of 2024.

We wish you a wonderfully blessed year.

Merci,



James & Virginie Carney

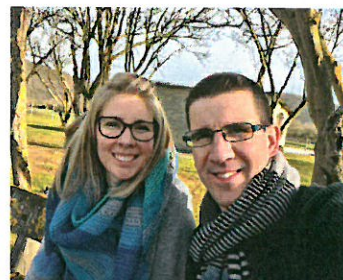


The French Press

With the James Carney Family

Dear **Praying** Friends,

The months of January and February were invested in starting 2021 on the right track. There were many things pending from the past year of confinement and uncertainty that we were not able to do every week as we were before (visitation, church meetings together, meeting with people...). One big blessing is that we are allowed to meet on Sunday mornings in the church building, but not for the mid-week service which is an online-only service. The reason for this is that we have been under curfew for several months. Not being able to meet during the week is tough, but we are thankful that God has helped us with the online part of things. I pre-record the service and we watch it together at the same time on Tuesday evening. We are even able to chat and send prayer requests. This is a huge plus because this allows us to have a little bit of interaction. We have people from our church, but also several families that join us from other parts of France and Europe.



We asked you to **please pray** for the spiritual growth of: **1) Gladis** (saved in 2020); **2) Mélodie** (saved in 2019) and **3) Sylvain** (saved several years ago) and we wanted to let you know that Gladis and Sylvain have been faithfully attending church. Mélodie has completed another discipleship class where she watches a teaching video, does some Bible reading and then has a good bit of personal homework to do. Each class takes a few weeks to complete. Also **thanks for praying** for Mélodie to find a good church in Luxembourg where she lives.

We would like to ask you **please to pray** for the salvation of Heidi (a young girl that attends faithfully). **Please pray** for Heidi's sister, Marie, to have a hunger and thirst for God's Word. Since the beginning of this year we have noticed that 3 children in our church have discovered the joy of God's Word. All three of them have requested Bible-reading plans and are faithfully working through them.

We have restructured our Sunday morning church service to help us accomplish the task of making disciples. Each week we have an application to complete during the week. The goal is simple: to practice what is preached. Children, teens and adults alike are all challenged to work through a this application each week and to talk about it the next Sunday. This is not a new approach entirely because this is the goal of Sunday school, but now we have the whole church working together on the same topic towards the same goal. Even the smaller children who can't read are encouraged to illustrate something they heard in church from the Bible. Thank you VERY MUCH for your prayers.



Merci,

James & Virginie Carney

The French Press

With the James Carney Family

Dear **Praying** Friends,

May/June 2022

May 26th our church celebrated the Ascension of Jesus with another church from a town about an hour away. Their coming was a great encouragement to our members and guests. We had a teaching session for the children, the men and the women. The people responded well to the meeting. Believers in this part of the world feel very lonely and like they are the only ones serving Christ. This is no new problem to Christianity, but it is a real one. Our members were so excited to be able to fellowship with others who love Christ. We had some games, music, preaching and a bbq. The weather was perfect. When you pray for us **please pray** for the saved to stay encouraged in their faith. **Please pray** that God would allow us to experience spiritual strengthening.



The end of June we had a wedding in the south of France scheduled for Virginie's younger brother Frederic. The day we were supposed to leave we had to take Virginie to the ER because of some pain. It turned out to be some complications with the pregnancy. She was placed on immediate bedrest. We had to forgo the wedding and return home. The weeks that followed were tough, but God helped us manage. She was not allowed to do anything around the house, she had to stay in bed or on the couch. She was eventually allowed to go to church on Sunday after a few weeks but remained on bedrest. **Please pray** for Virginie's health.

In May and June we made some progress, not much, but some, on the new house we plan to move into early July. Thanks for praying for this move. It is not an ideal move, but we know God wants us to move and is making a way for us to do so. God sent us a helper. His name is Denis. He is the father-in-law of our unsaved friend, Cedric. Denis is retired so he has time on his hands. He has been showing up at the new house when I am there and just helping me with whatever needs done. Denis has been a huge help. Would you **pray** for his salvation with us **please** ?



Denis working on plumbing

Merci,

James A. Carney
James & Virginie Carney

The French Press

With the James Carney Family

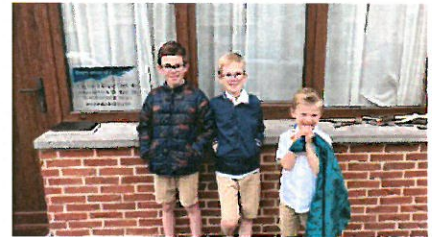
Dear **Praying** Friends,

July/August 2022

July 1st was the official move date. We were down to the wire on the move, but God was gracious and helped us get everything out of the old house. With Virginie on bedrest, the move was stressful. The painting in the new house was done first and was quick, but the house had plumbing, flooring and electric issues. We agreed to do some of the work in exchange for free months of rent, but we had not planned on Virginie's being unable to help. However, Jim White, a fellow-missionary working in a town about an hour away, came to the rescue and has been helping us move forward. He has spent many hours on his days off helping us get the work done.

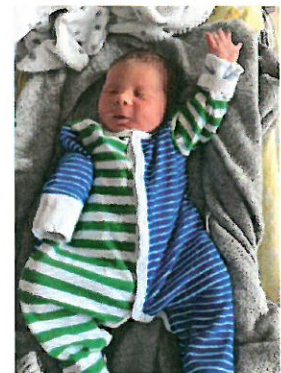
Would you **please pray** with us for the salvation of Karine. She has heard the gospel several times and we have answered many of her questions over the past few weeks, but she is still unsure about being able to trust God's Word. She has been attending all our services and is responding to God's truth, but she still hesitates to believe the gospel.

Since early July our 3 boys are on summer vacation. This will not be a usual summer, but with a new house that has a yard, they are living the dream. They are all old enough (5, 7 and 9) to help around the house and they don't mind doing so. **Please pray** that God would keep our children from evil and that they would serve God.



On the baby front...the bedrest and medicines helped. Virginie gave birth to Owen Jeff Carney on Monday the 29th of August at 1:39 p.m.—he weighed right over 8 pounds. The due date was the 8th of September. Owen and Virginie are doing well. They have been back home for 2 days now. Thanks for praying for our family.

During the month of September our church will be memorising several verses in the Psalms and we will be studying portions of Jeremiah and teaching through 1 Corinthians 5. Would you **please pray** for those listening to be encouraged and motivated. We appreciate your prayers for us and the work !



Merci,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James A. Carney".

James & Virginie Carney



PO Box 37043 JAX, FL 32236

jvcarney09@gmail.com

The French Press

With the James Carney Family

Dear **Praying** Friends,

Thanks for praying for us and the work. We asked you to pray for two unsaved families in our last letter and we are thankful that God has answered your prayers because one child from one of the families has come to church several times. **Thanks !**

There is not a time that is busier yet more exciting than the first half of the year! There are so many special days on the calendar between Palm Sunday, Easter, the Ascension, Pentecost, mother's and father's day and the list goes on. **Please pray** for us as we work through this busy season that we would preach the Gospel to the unsaved and encourage the saved to stay faithful to God.

In March I had the opportunity to share the Gospel with a man from Irak. He is a refugee and was accepted several years ago to become a Dominican monk with the Catholic Church. He has heard the gospel before through a Protestant preacher friend. He left the Catholic Church because he did not agree with their view of the Bible. He understands the gospel and claims to be a believer, but he lacks commitment. Would you **please pray** for this man to know the joy of knowing God and walking with Him?

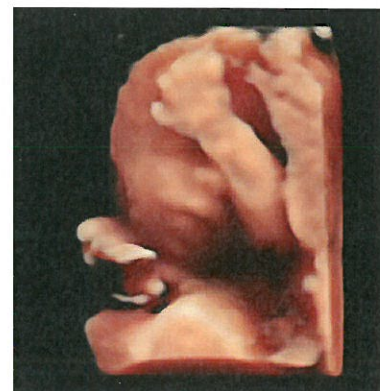
In April we found out that our landlord was selling our home due to his divorce. Our contract is up in a couple months so we need to find a new place to live. We quickly found a new place in the same town, but it needs much work. The owners are helping finance a part of the work, but here's what we need you **to pray for** : **1**—Wisdom and skill for the work, **2**—Wisdom in dealing with our new landlords, **3**—The salvation of the landlords and **4**—To get the work done on time to move in this July.

Last but not least, we are expecting another child this September. **Please pray** for the health of Virginie and the baby. We are excited for this awesome and priceless addition to our family. **Thanks for praying for us.**

Merci,



James & Virginie Carney



The French Press

With the James Carney Family

Dear **Praying** Friends,

Thanks for praying us through these past few months. I had the privilege of doing a funeral for a family who lost its mother to covid. It was a very sad situation, but it was a great opportunity to witness to the family and friends of the deceased. The family is unsaved and I count it a privilege to have shared Christ with them during their moment of grieving. **Please pray** for the Delnau family's salvation.

In January my family and I were sick with covid and had to do online church for 2 Sundays. We are extremely thankful for the ministry of my brother-in-law, Danny Flowers who provided some of his recorded messages that we placed on our website during this time. There were other people sick in the church so we decided to play it safe and just do online church. Online church is not great, but it is definitely a lifeline. I know our church members really enjoy having access to our services and sermons online. Some of our members will even rewatch the lessons to take better notes! I was encouraged and surprised to hear this.

Please pray for our weekly visitation where we seek to evangelize the families in the towns surrounding our church. It is a joy and blessing to be able to publish the truth each week. **Please pray** for the people we talk with that God would draw them to himself as we speak for him.

This new year still has its challenges, but we are glad for the opportunities God has given us. **Please pray** for the Oesch and Paquet families. They are some unsaved friends that live in our town. Both of them moved recently and we were able to help them with their moves. **Please ask** God to open their hearts to the gospel. *Thank you for participating in the work in France!*

Merci,



James & Virginie Carney

One of my trusty visitation partners!



The French Press

With the James Carney Family

Dear **Praying** Friends,

Praise God for his guidance and for his help to advance his kingdom. We finished out the year of 2021 with several blessings :

#1—November 15, 2021 we paid off the church building and the parking lot and the same day I was contacted by an architect about coming to look at our situation.

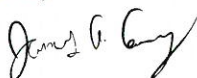
#2—November 23, 2021 Estelle GARCIA, an architecte from Charleville-Mézières, came and looked at our property and said that she would check with our town authorities and let us know if we are allowed to build. This was a big plus because most architects that we have encountered have refused to work for a religious outfit.

#3—December 17, 2021 someone wrecked into our parked car and forgot to leave a note! We had to claim the damages under our insurance policy. The blessing is that we were able to fix the car and only had to pay the insurance deductible. The incident was filed as not being our fault so our premiums should not increase.

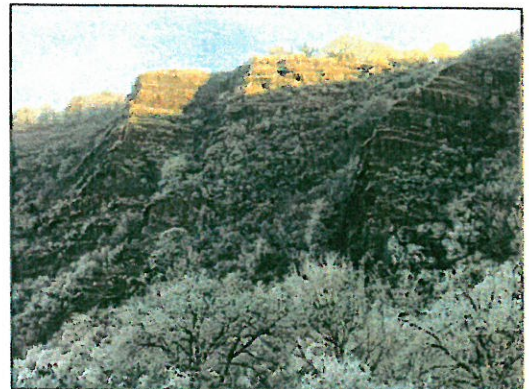
#4—December 29, 2021 The architect mentioned above informed us that we are allowed to build on our parking lot if we respect the various construction codes. This is great news. She also included an estimate for her services which was quite steep (\$55,000)! Please pray that she would be willing to draw up the plans for our church building project. Usually the architect wants to coordinate the work and file all the necessary work permits, but this adds too much to the bill; we just want the blueprints so we can hire out the work ourselves.

These are just a couple of the many blessings but as you can see, God is at work in France! Please rejoice with us and send God a BIG THANKS for all he has done and is doing here. *Thank you for participating in the work in France!*

Merci,



James & Virginie Carney



Arrival of colder weather

The French Press

With the James Carney Family

Dear **Praying** Friends,

Thanks for praying for the work here and our family. The month of September in France means « back to school! » Our eldest son, Declan, is in third grade, Zachary is in first grade and William is in K4. All three at our local school 5 minutes from our house.

In our last letter we asked you to pray for Marie, a young teen girl in our church. Thanks for praying! Virginie was able to invite her over to the house to bake some cookies and play games. She has come a couple time to church, but is still struggling; please continue to pray for Marie and her 2 younger sisters: Liselotte and Heidi.

Our church in Hierges was able to join a sister church from Charleville to distribute the gospel in Revin. Revin is the halfway point between our churches. We split up and distributed right about 1,700 gospel tracts! We printed up a new gospel tract with a link to a new video series we published on our website (ebbardennes.com). Our church created this video series entitled « The Journey to Forgiveness. » After an introductory video to our church there are 4 videos each answering a question : #1-If God is good why is there so much bad stuff in the world? #2-Is sin really that big of a deal? #3-Can I be forgiven? 4-How to be forgiven? Our desire is to have the gospel message readily available in an easy and understandable way. **Please pray** that as we distribute the gospel and invitations with links to this video series that people would be saved by faith in God's grace.

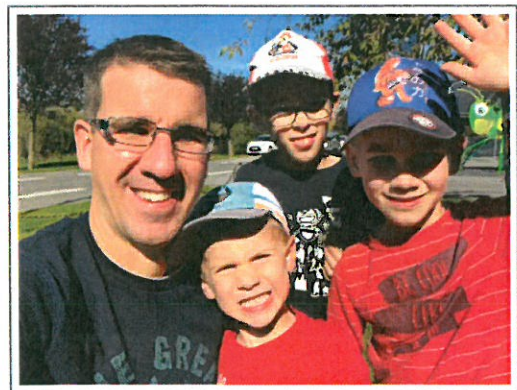
We are praying for you and we wish you a wonderful Christmas season filled with God's grace. Blessings from France!

Thank you for your prayers and faithfulness to God!

Merci,



James & Virginie Carney



Picnic with the boys

The French Press

With the James Carney Family

Dear **Praying** Friends,

We want to ask that you to **please pray** for our church's Bible memorization efforts. Each month we are memorizing a new verse and most are participating. We have been at it for several months and of course, the children and teens are definitely learning quicker than the adults, but even the adults are making progress.


In July our church worked its way through Psalm 23 on Sunday morning for both Sunday school and church and in August I started preaching through Matthew 16. **We covet your prayers** for God's help and wisdom as we explain the Bible to those in our ministry.

We want to praise the Lord that our children's club and ladies' meetings have resumed since the end of June. We have also been able to have a couple special activities like hot dog night, game night and even a park outing last week. The church is not able to run as it did before the pandemic, but we are so thankful for the opportunities God has given us.

We have one last praise and that is that we were able to join a sister church in Charleville for a teen meeting. We had a great lesson, some prayer and then played some games and explored an old fort in Charleville. **Please pray** for Marie, a young teen in our church who is going through some problems at home. She has been faithful for a long time, but recently she has not been coming. **Please pray** that God would strengthen here.

Thank you for your prayers and faithfulness to God!

Merci,


James & Virginie Carney



William's 4th b-day

The French Press

With the James Carney Family

Dear **Praying** Friends,

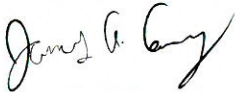
Thank you for praying for us in May and June ! We asked for you to pray for Gladis' spiritual growth and we are thankful to God that she is growing and making good decisions by faith to get her life where she wants to be spiritually. **Please pray** for the salvation of her boyfriend, Bernard. Gladis asks that we **pray also** for her to have God's wisdom and that her family would also be saved. It is exciting to see a new believer grow in Christ. We have seen her change slowly but surely. **Thanks for praying for her.**

In June we had construction company come out to the church to see our building and to propose a plan for renovation. The conclusion was that it would be easier and possibly less expensive to build a new building on the parking lot space than to renovate the church building. **Please pray** about this. This approach would allow us to use our current church building for services while we build a new building that is safe and up to code.

In June President Macron decided that vaccination would be pretty much mandatory for adults if they wanted to eat inside a restaurant or visit a museum... He created a sanitary pass that you receive upon vaccination that you have to show before you can enter certain businesses. We want to share a praise with you : the pass is not mandatory for churches (it may be one day, but praise the Lord it is not for now). This said, most of our church is vaccinated so that is not a huge problem.

Our church finished our reading plan for the Old Testament. We enjoyed Bible lessons and preaching that helped us understand what we read. **Please pray** for our church as we read the New Testament. We have study books that we fill in each day with a verse or two, some observations and a prayer. Our desire is that the church would grow through the reading and studying of God's Word. *Thanks for all you do for us!*

Merci,


James & Virginie Carney



Day trip to the beach

The French Press

With the James Carney Family

Dear **Praying** Friends,

We have great news! Baptiste and Zachary, our second child, made professions of faith on the same day (March 23, 2021). While I was at church sharing the gospel with Baptiste, Virginie, was at home talking to Zachary about salvation too. **Please pray** for Baptiste and Zachary to learn to walk with God. Baptiste lives about 3 hours away with his girlfriend who used to come to church here and who made a profession of faith in March of 2020. Their living together is not ideal, but it is totally normal and acceptable here. Couples living together outside of marriage is a huge hurdle for the church in France. **Please be in prayer** about this spiritual stronghold, please.



The longer I live, the more I realise that life is not always the way we want it to be. There are many problems and pains that one must go through. However, seeing people make professions of faith is very encouraging. It is God that saves sinners, our job is to teach God's family to follow everything in His Word! This is a long-term effort of prayer, fasting and trust in God. Would you **please pray** for us as we tell others about Christ and teach believers to walk with him?

We **covet your prayers** for our long-term project of replacing the church roof. This is not one that we plan to do immediately, but in a few years. We plan to raise the walls a few feet when we do the roof. This will not be cheap, but where your **prayers are needed most** is for wisdom to know exactly how to do this project. **Please ask God** to increase our faith. **Please pray** for another project to refresh our parking lot. We need a new church sign and the parking lot needs some TLC (tender love and care). As you can see in the photo, we have to mow our parking lot! (Haha) We would like to install lights and redo the gravel, plants and maybe some other things. Would you **please pray** for wisdom for us? Thank you very much for praying with us.



Merci,

James & Virginie Carney

The French Press

With the James Carney Family

Dear **Praying** Friends,

Greetings from France, we are glad to inform you that we are having services in our church building again since the 28th of June. We are taking the same precautions you probably are: masks, hand sanitizer and keeping our distance.

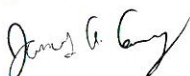
Would you please pray for Olivier, his wife, Isabelle, and their daughter, Zoé? Olivier has been one of the most faithful members in the church for years. No matter what, you knew he would be there. Isabelle, his wife is extremely ill and far from the Lord. This situation has created a great deal of hardship for Olivier. The first week we started the church back he informed the church that she had given him an ultimatum—either her or the church. He said he was going to keep coming, but he has since quickly stopped coming. Olivier needs your prayers; thanks for praying.

Please pray for Julie. During the confinement period Julie, a young lady that started coming to our church last year, made a profession of faith. We had a chance to talk with her early June at our house about salvation and she told us that she made a profession of faith at her apartment by herself. She told Virginie that normally she did not enjoy reading the Bible, but after her salvation, she enjoys it. We followed up with her and reexplained the gospel to her and she showed signs of understanding. We had already shared the gospel with her several times before through Bible studies. Unfortunately, Julie, moved to another city a couple hours away in mid-June right after we started the services back up. She is in a relationship with a non-saved young man and she has gone to live with him. Before she left she came to us for counsel concerning this relationship and we explained to her what God wanted, but she chose to move-in with her boyfriend. Satan loves to swoop down and gobble up those gospel seeds! Julie needs prayer, she made what seems to be a true profession of faith, but people are so tangled in sin that living for God takes time and much work. Thanks again for praying for Julie.

Please pray that God would protect our children from harm and evil. Our two oldest boys, Declan, 7, and Zachary, 5, returned to school for the last two weeks of the school-year at end of June. Everybody thought it was strange that the government wanted the children to return to school, but we believe it was the government's way of getting the economy fired back up for the summer. Now that the numbers (of COVID19 infections) are slowly starting to climb in France, they are tightening up the regulations again (just can't win)! As far as we know, all three boys will be starting up school in September. Thanks!!!

Thank you for praying for our family to grow closer to God, for praying for the Kinder and Boissard families during their time of grief and for praying about helping us purchase equipment for live-streaming and recording—we have grown closer to God over the past few months and God has guided us in the ministry as we have asked him to do. The Kinder and Boissard families have remained faithful to God and seem to be doing well. Finally, several people have helped us financially with the purchase of equipment! Thanks! Our setup is getting better. The good news is that we have multiple people watching our live stream as well as new views every week on the videos we post. If you would like to partner financially with us so that we can effectively publish the Word online, please contact us. As far as we know we have seen two people saved through this new outreach, but more on that later...

Merci,



James & Virginie Carney

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Dear **Praying** Friends,

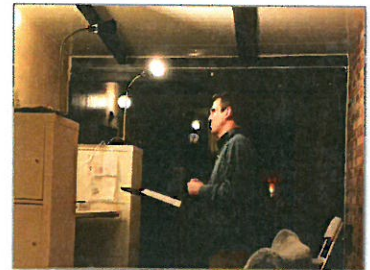
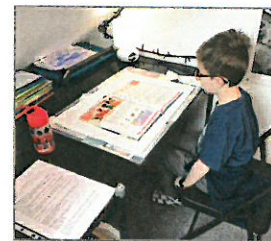
Thank you for praying for our ministry. In March and April, God gave us the opportunity to work on something that we have desired to do for some time. It has come to our attention in the past that people in our church and outside of our church have requested French resources online for when they could not come to church because of illness, a work situation, or distance. However, we have not been able to really dive in and work on this project until recently. Through this hardship with COVID-19, we have not been able to have church since March 16. All contact must take place online or on the phone. We have had no choice but to expand our online ministry. This is something we have always wanted to do, but due to limitations, it has never been a priority until March 16.

Our 2 older boys (Declan-7 and Zachary-5) have not attended school since the start of the confinement. We have been homeschooling them. Thankfully, we receive the instructions and materials from the local school! During confinement we are only allowed to leave with a time-stamped document. The only things on the list that we qualified for were to buy groceries, to go to the doctor and to go on a one-hour walk within 1 kilometer of our home. No church, no visitation, no family visits, no parks... It is tough. Churches may be allowed to open the end of May or mid-June, but the restrictions will be strict. We do not have much information about this yet. It is possible that we will not be able to meet at the church for a couple week or months. Nobody knows. When we can go back to the church, not all members will come back, but we hope that 10 or so of us can meet and do a live stream from the church for those who are not allowed to come (elderly, young children...).

Although we do not believe church is solely an online experience, we see that God is leading us to make French Bible resources available online. Our goal is to do our best now and to purchase the necessary equipment to be able to live stream once we are back in our building. The reality is that not all of our church will be able to meet together for a long time. **Here's what we need you to pray about:** **1.** That God would grant us the knowledge and the means to streamline our live-streaming process once we return to our building. We are creating content at home which is easy because I can stand in front of the computer, but when we return to the church we will need a new solution. **2.** That we would be able to make an online discipleship class. This will be useful for our members who travel for work and for others who live in an area where there is no church option close by. **3.** That God would help our church family grow closer to Him and to each other. **4.** That God would comfort the Kinder and Boissard families who both lost a family member. **5.** Finally, please pray about helping us financially with the purchase of a camcorder and other necessary equipment that will enable us to publish the Word online. Thanks for praying for us.

Merci,

James & Virginie Carney



The French Press

With the James Carney Family

Dear **Praying** Friends,

Greetings and Happy New Year! We pray this new year will bring you many wonderful things, especially a deeper walk with God. As we closed out the year in the church we saw just how much God had done for us in 2019. Many things have happened this year that have helped us grow as a church. We are slowly but surely making progress. Thank you for praying for us and for following the news of the work here in Hierges, France.

Alain, the man we asked you to pray for in our last prayer letter, has not been coming to church and when he comes to a men's meeting, he gets upset with me over the Bible lesson. Needless to say, this is not a good sign for someone who made a profession of faith. **Pray** that God would get through to him.

We started some construction work December 2018 to be able to replace all the church windows and doors. It was during this long overdue project that we discovered we had a problem with the roof. If we had not started this project we would not have known about the roof issue, but in order to do the work we had to empty out the auditorium. There is a small entry at the other side of the building where we were able to put out some chairs. With a nursery and kid's class right next to this entry, it was a bit noisy and cramped. We spent about a year in the entry and we were very glad to be able to recover some of our auditorium. Our first Sunday in the auditorium was December 22 which was our Christmas celebration service. Since we cannot fix the roof right now and that it will be some time before we have the funds to replace it, we decided to build a wall in the auditorium to block off the part under construction and thus give us a proper space to have our church services.



The first Tuesday of each month is dedicated to the men and the last Tuesday is dedicated to the ladies. The goal this year is to help the men learn how to study interpret the Bible. Every third month we plan to host an evangelistic outreach. The month of March will be the first outreach. **Please pray** that the men we are praying for and inviting will come and give their lives to Christ. Also **please**

pray for the ladies as they learn about Biblical happiness and contentment.

We had the special privilege this Christmas of leading Mélodie to Christ after the Christmas service. She is a young lady who lives 2 hours away in Luxembourg. She found us on Youtube and started watching our messages. She then contacted us via our website. We spent a couple months corresponding with her and she decided to come with her boyfriend, Joey, to our Christmas service. They told us they were coming so we planned to eat a meal with them after the service and then to explain the gospel to them after the meal. She made a profession of faith. **Please pray** for her spiritual growth and commitment. **Pray** as we look for a church for her to attend and as we try to help her grow spiritually.

Merci,

James & Virginie Carney

The French Press

With the James Carney Family

Dear **Praying** Friends,

Thanks for **praying** for us, your **prayers** and support have enabled us to get here and stay here. September was the beginning of a new school year in France. On May 17 Alain made a profession of faith. We have not seen much of him since then. He comes to our men's meeting once a month, but he has only come to a church service 2 or 3 times. Would you **pray** that he would learn to walk with God and grant me some time to disciple him. We both have 24 hours in our day, but his commitment to Christ is lacking.

October was an important month for us as a church: we started a building fund. This is money we are giving to God by faith beyond our faith promise, tithe and offerings. As you know our roof is in need of repair and our building needs to be brought up to code. As far as we know, the roofer is not going to repair the roof. Our insurance is not helping us do the necessary paperwork because our policy does not cover this problem. If we want to advance with the situation, we would have to get a lawyer. We do not have the money or the desire to fight for something we are not sure can be won. So, we move on. Our goal is twofold : 1. Replace the roof and 2. Bring the building up to code.

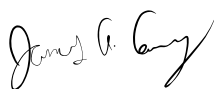
#1. Before the roof can be done, we need to build 12 cement pillars to support the roof. The reason these cement pillars are necessary is because half of the building is five car garages that were redone into our church auditorium. As such, the foundation is too weak to support a proper roof. This is why our current roof is made of sheet metal. Estimates for the first step of building the pillars and redoing the roof are around \$50,000 USD.

#2. Once this work is done, we would then be able to proceed with bringing the building up to code. This would include proper insulation, fireproof ceilings, updated electric, a handicap bathroom, etc. Estimates for this second step are around \$25,000 to \$30,000 USD.

Would you **pray** that God would guide us in the planning and doing of His will concerning our building? Would you **pray** for our church to be faithful to give. We are incredibly blessed as a church in Europe to have our own building with a parking lot. However, as such, we need to fix the roof and bring the building up to code. We are working towards this goal and we know that it is going to take some time. Thanks for **praying**. We have been raising money and saving money where we can. We currently have over \$16,000 USD saved and we are adding to this each month. The church people are giving faithfully and sacrificially. The number one **prayer** request we have is that God would grow the church so we can rise up and complete this project.

Previously I asked you to pray for two ladies in need of Christ named Micheline and Virginie. Virginie has made it clear that she is not interested in God. Micheline came to a special church activity we recently hosted. Please **pray** that she would see her need for a personal relationship with God.

Merci,



James & Virginie Carney



The French Press

With the James Carney Family

Dear **Praying** Friends,

Since the beginning of this year we have had two new men attending our men's meetings which are held the first Tuesday night of every month. Alain and Alain are both unsaved. They are friends and both have the same first name. We call the first Alain « Alsace » because he is from a region in France called Alsace. We call the second Alain « Alain. »

Let's start with Alsace. At the men's meetings in January and February he was very outspoken (as he still is). He is not afraid to share his opinions. One of the opinions he shared was that Jesus is not God. He defended this position poorly, but passionately. He had been to a church before in Alsace, but he does not know what kind of church it was (that is, beyond labeling it as a Protestant church). The Deity of Christ comes up ALL THE TIME. Since it is such an important issue, especially for salvation, I kindly but firmly nip any false doctrine concerning Christ in the bud. After showing him multiple Scriptural proofs for the Deity of Christ, Alsace came to me and said, « You know, you have changed my mind on something. » I thought, « Oh no, what is it this time! » But he continued, « I really believed that I was right about Jesus' not being God, but you have shown me that He is God. » WOW! Thank you, Holy Spirit! What a victory! Now the gospel is open to Alsace!

Let's move on to Alain (the second Alain, that is). He has been around our church for years. He is not an attender, but he will come help from time to time and he enjoys attending our special activities (like BBQs, Christmas parties...). He is very friendly and non-confrontational. He is, however, very hesitant concerning the gospel. At our Easter picnic he heard the gospel yet again. He raised his hand during the invitation saying that he wanted to know more about salvation. I got a chance to talk to him later that day. He patiently listened to the gospel and I asked him if he wanted to receive Christ. He said, « I still have doubts, I am not sure about religion. » I replied that religion was not the issue, but rather that of having a relationship with the God that created him. I explained how he must be convinced that he needed Jesus, his Creator. He said he was not ready to decide, so I told him I would be praying that he would place his faith in God for salvation. I finished by reminding him that faith is not something we feel or see, it is trust we place in someone or something.

Would you **pray** for Alsace that he would receive Christ as his Savior? Would you also **pray** for Alain that he would place his faith in God for salvation? **Please pray** that God would guide me as I continue speaking to these two men. Also, **please pray** that the church roof would be covered by the roofer's insurance. We had a response from our insurance for the church roof, but they said there is nothing they can do. So, the next step is to send a letter to the roofer invoking our right to have the roof repaired at his expense. Our roof has a 10-year guarantee and it has only been 7 years since the roof was replaced. We got an estimate to repair the roof with similar materials for \$17,000 and another estimate to strengthen the structure to be able to place a more durable option for \$34,000. We are not looking for handouts, but we have been informed by several roofers that there are some flaws that led to the roof's rotting in so short a time. Our desire is to use the 10-year guarantee to fix the roof so we can get back to work on remodeling the church building. **Please pray** for this as it could be a very long process.

Merci,



James & Virginie Carney



The French Press

With the James Carney Family

Dear **Praying** Friends,

We spent most of the month of January working at the church tearing down walls and ceilings along with some other work. Early in the month we had to open up some walls and make ready for the new windows and doors that were installed on the 15th. One issue we were hoping to fix was the height of the ceiling in the auditorium. The ceiling is on a slope and the shorter side is just too low. Once we tore down a part of the ceiling, we realized that it would be possible to raise the ceiling. It looks like we can gain a whole foot in height. This would make a huge difference and ensure that nobody would hit their head on the support beams. **Please pray** that God would help us with the work.

Please pray for the work specifically that we would not have to pay to replace the roof. When we began tearing down the ceiling, we noticed some stains on the metal roof. Upon inspection we realized that the roof is completely rusted through in the auditorium. We have had several roofers come by to do estimates. The roofers mentioned that the roof was not done properly. This is good news since the roof is under 10 years old and it is still under warranty. **Please pray** that the insurance inspector will be able to identify the source of the problem and that we would not have to pay for the repairs.



January 31st we received a call letting us know that Isabelle Heaberlin (James' grandmother on his mother's side) was not going to make it through the night. She passed away early February 2nd. We were able to get all the details nailed down to be able to return for the funeral. It was a short trip to Mansfield, OH, but we are thankful for God's provision and protection as we travelled. It was nice to see some of our family and to visit 2 churches in the area. We appreciate your **prayers** for our family.

During my absence I recorded video sermons for the 2 Sundays we were gone and Olivier, a faithful man in the church, led the church services. He also led the prayer meetings and a short Bible study for the 3 mid-week services we missed. It was great to have him there to help out. I have been praying and working with him so that he can be more and more involved in the church. **Please pray** for Olivier and for his wife, Isabelle, who is very sick and needs much prayer. Without getting into the details, she has several health problems that leave her in much pain. She also suffers from depression. Olivier wants to be used by God, but it is extremely difficult for him to balance work, his family and serving at the church.

Please pray for the church members to grow in their faith. Ludivine (saved in October 2018) has been attending on and off. She shows a great desire for the Lord, but she has an unstable work schedule and a boyfriend that is not interested in God. This makes things very tough for her as a new believer. As always, thanks for your faithfulness to pray and support the work here in France.

Merci,

James & Virginie Carney

The French Press

With the James Carney Family

Dear **Praying** Friends,

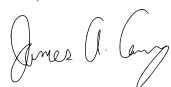
My parents Donald & Carolyn Carney, missionaries in Mexico came to visit us in November. The church here in Hierges supports their ministry and it was encouraging to see and hear about God's work in Mexico. On Sunday November 25th we had a special Thanksgiving celebration. We had several first-time visitors who heard a clear presentation of the gospel. I invited Declan and Zachary's teacher, Céline, and the teacher's aid, Cécile. **Please pray** that we can meet with them and lead them to belief in Jesus. They both want to hear the gospel message again, but their schedules are quite hectic. **Please pray**. Vincent is Cécile's boyfriend and I had a chance to talk with him about salvation too. He had just recently lost a friend to suicide, so he was particularly sensitive to God's message. I had a chance to talk to him again in December at a school party, **please pray** that God the Holy Ghost would convict him and draw Him to God the Son.

We had a great Christmas celebration with a special presentation from our children's ministry. The services around the holidays were well-attended. **Please pray** for the church to grow in their commitment to God and His church.

Right after Christmas we started remodelling the church building. We are redoing the entrance to the church so that it is handicap accessible. In preparation for the installation of new windows and doors (January 9), we widened the front door and had some drains put in in front of two doors. The photo on the right represents half of our building which is the part where we have our entrance (space # 6) and auditorium (spaces 5,4,3 & 2). The goal is to create a media/storage room and a handicap bathroom in the entrance (space 6) and to redo all the walls and ceilings in the first two spaces (6 & 5). We have also opened up several walls to create a better flow. **Please pray** that God would bless our minds and hands.

We will be doing the tiling, insulation, drywall and ceilings ourselves, while the masonry work is being done by a local company. One of the workers is the pastor of a charismatic church in the town next to us. He mentioned how that church buildings have many regulations to respect in order to keep their doors open. All this to say that we have done some research and have now discovered just what we need to do as we remodel so we do not have to redo it later when inspected by the local authorities. **Please pray** that God would give us wisdom as we 'tread these new waters.' Fireproofing all ceilings and fireproof doors are just two examples of things we need to do throughout the whole church. This complicates our remodelling and has increased the project price. For now we are working on 2 of the 5 spaces (which represents 20% of our building). The handicap bathroom is coming along well. Thanks for those who have given towards this project. We will keep you posted on the progress, thanks for **praying**.

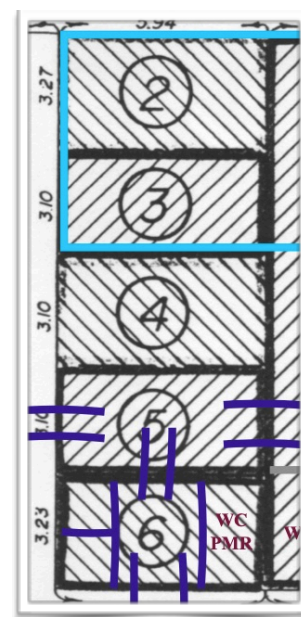
Merci,



James & Virginie Carney



Ludivine & Damien



The French Press

With the James Carney Family

Dear Praying Friends,

In September we started a new outreach effort that we call APC or L'Ardenne Pour Christ (The Ardenne for Christ). We are located in the Ardennes with an « s » which is a department (like a state) of France. But the Ardenne (without an « s ») is a territory that encompasses portions of France, Belgium and Luxembourg. The goal is to mobilise the church members with the gospel of Christ. We have a gospel presentation printed with our church information that we are distributing in the surrounding towns. We have special prayer meetings on every other Sunday night where we talk about our progress, discuss the needs in the Ardenne, and prepare tracts for distribution. **Please pray** for this effort. It is not the main gospel outreach for our church, but it is our way of going beyond our area with the gospel. **Please continue to pray** for us as we share our faith in our community.

October first was a great surprise for us as Ludivine Leurs made a profession of faith after the Sunday morning service. She was invited by a church member. We could see that God was working in her heart. I approached her after the service and asked her if she knew Christ personally and when she answered « no » Virginie and I shared the gospel with her and she placed her faith in Christ. Several weeks later we had the opportunity to invite her to our house to begin discipling her. I was pleased to see that she understood the gospel and that she is interested in baptism. **Please pray** for Ludivine. Also, **please pray** for her boyfriend that invited her, Damien. He is far from God and does not show any desire to come back. He still comes to church from time to time, but he needs to repent and return to Christ.

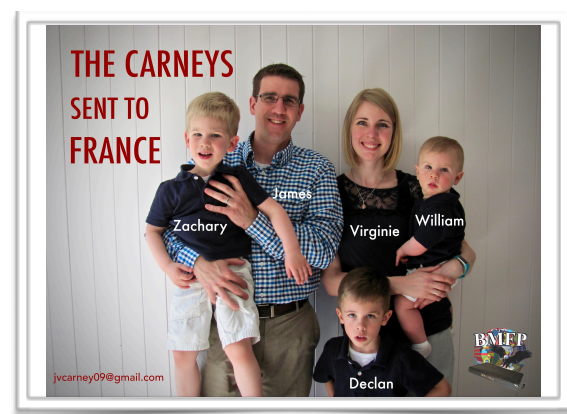


The first week of October, Virginie and I make a trip to Korea where I preached the mission's conference Lighthouse Baptist Church (Pastor Bruce Rosko). When he asked us to come, I was surprised and I was even more surprised when he asked me to preach the conference. We had a wonderful time. It was nice to finally meet the members of the church who have supported our ministry from the start without having met us! Thanks. **Please pray** for Lighthouse Baptist Church that God would provide their needs and give them wisdom and encouragement as needed.

As of September we have two boys in the local school here in the town of Chooz. They both love it and are learning French and many other things. We thank you so much for **praying** for Virginie, Declan, Zachary, William and me as we give ourselves for the church here in France.

Merci,

James & Virginie Carney



The French Press

With the James Carney Family

Dear Praying Friends,

In our last letter we informed you that we REALLY NEEDED your help and the news is that we still need it! What we mean by that is that we NEED YOUR PRAYERS. You have been faithful to support both us and the ministry here and we are thankful for this. Many of you pray for us regularly and we are encouraged and strengthened by this. Would you **please continue praying** for us? As a pastor I covet your prayers for wisdom and spiritual power to confront the Devil here on his turf.

We **praise God** that Marie, a 10-year old girl, received Christ at children's camp! The months preceding the camp Virginie shared the gospel with Marie several times, but she said she was not ready. Marie's younger sister Liselote received Christ in January of this year. Marie apparently just needed more time, but thankfully she yielded her life to Christ on August 2, 2018. **Please pray** for her to understand the commitment she made and for her to grow in Christ.

The photo on the right is clearly a selfie...what's important is that it is a photo of our distributing the gospel in the neighbouring towns in Belgium. The part of France where we are located is surrounded by Belgium on the west, north and east. The closest Belgian border is only a couple kilometers from our church. The tract we distribute contains the gospel message with the printed Bible verses and the church's contact information. Although most new visitors do not come from this approach, we still believe in 'putting feet to the gospel.' We are presented with opportunities both to share the gospel and to get the word out that there is a Baptist church in the area. **Please pray** that God would open hearts to the gospel message.



We do not have the exact date for the arrival of the new windows and doors for the church, but we were told they would be installed before Christmas. We have some work to do before this project is finalised. **PLEASE pray** that God would bless my hands and brain to be able to complete the necessary elements. I have never laid tile, installed insulation, or redone a ceiling, but with God's help and some patience we **PRAY** it will be done. I went to school to be a pastor, not a construction worker! However, as many of you know from experience, pastors do much more than just preach! Thanks for **praying** for this too.

We are blessed to have such a nice building to have our services in. Many churches in Europe do not have a building with a parking lot. With a building come the responsibility to keep it running and looking as nice as possible. We will keep you posted with some before-and-after pictures of the work we do. May God richly bless you.

Merci,

James & Virginie Carney



The French Press

With the James Carney Family

Dear Praying Friends,

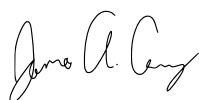
What a huge blessing we have to share with you! As you know we have been battling with the French social security for some time. Having been misled by a lawyer Brother Don contested the social charges. Several years later we found out that the charges are due. The total bill was over 21 000€ (over \$24000). This is a hard pill to swallow for any church. We informed you that we were able to get the bill reduced to 7664€ (almost \$9000). This was possible because Brother Don had already paid social security in the US and so a portion of the overlapping charges were excused. We paid the 7664€ before Christmas of 2017. We thought this long battle of misunderstandings was finally over...

In May I received a letter from the social security court in Charleville-Mezières summoning me to appear in court for not paying the charges. « Oh boy, » I thought. Long story short the Cavimac (the social security agency billing us) never transmitted proof of payment to the court. It took another 5 weeks of calling and e-mailing to get the Cavimac to finally send the court proof that we had paid. The weekend before the court date, the information was passed on to the court so we did not have to pay any court/lawyer fees nor appear in court. Another close call. **Thank you for praying for this whole situation.** Now the church is in the church's name and we have no outstanding charges due.

I have began paying the monthly social security charges for my family and me. Thankfully, this keeps the church in good standing and allows us to move forward for Christ in the Ardennes. The church is an association in France, as such we have certain administrative protocols to respect. **Please pray** for me as I sort through the administrative side of ministry. It is all new to me. My goal is simple: to administrate the church properly and to help other churches do the same.

Please pray for guidance as we seek to update our doors and windows on the church building. Part of the reason for doing so is to make the church handicap accessible. We will be widening several doors and making a handicap bathroom. The windows and door has been a project on the to-do list for some time and we are getting close to being able to do this. As for the bathroom, we are researching the regulations. I know pastors and missionaries all need help, but we REALLY NEED HELP with the work God has called us to do. We covet your prayers. If you do not know just how to pray for us, just ask God to give us wisdom and courage. Thank you for your faithfulness to France.

Merci,



James & Virginie Carney



The French Press

With the James Carney Family

Dear Praying Friends,

Needless to say this letter is a little late. We were so caught up in the church and paperwork that we overlooked this prayer letter. The good news is that we have been busy and God has been too!



Let's start with March...Spring has finally arrived! The temperatures are starting to rise. The joke here in the Ardennes is that now we can start complaining because it is too hot (as opposed to too cold). Zachary celebrated his 3rd birthday and at the end of the month one of the church's neighbors made a profession of faith. **Please pray** for Raymonde (a shut-in lady) that she would grow in her faith. After asking Christ to save her, she smiled and said she felt relieved.

In April we started a new series on spiritual gifts. It has been great to see the reaction of the church to this topic. Patricia, a retired woman who helps Raymonde (the lady who made a profession of faith in March), also made a profession of faith. However, she has yet to attend church. **Please pray** that she would grow in her faith. On April 13th we loaded up Don & Joy Williams' belongings into a container in preparation for their move back to Florida. A huge answer to prayer is that we finally signed on the church building only 4 days before the Williams boarded their plane!!! The church is now officially in the name of the church. We had so many hurdles to jump over to get this to go through. **Thank you for praying.**



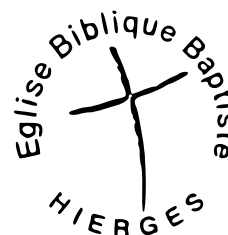
We celebrated Mother's Day at the church and ladies were glad to be rewarded with a « Super Mom » certificate along with a gift. We have had some visitors come by the church, **please pray** that God would bless our outreach efforts and that people would truly be saved and give their lives to Him in service.

Thank you for praying for us and for the work here in France. God is still working here in this part of the world!



Merci,

James & Virginie Carney



The French Press

With the James Carney Family

Dear Praying Friends,

The months of January and February were a great start to the new year. Here are some examples of how God has been answering our prayers:

On January 2 Declan, our oldest son, received Christ as his Savior. He had been asking questions the months leading up to his decision and when we noticed that he understood his need for Christ, we showed him how to receive Him. He has shown an increased interest in God and is very tender concerning spiritual matters. **What a joy to lead a child to Christ!**

On January 21 Liselotte, German name for Elizabeth, received Christ as her personal Savior after our Kids Club. She knew the gospel message, but she asked Virginie how to make sure she asked God properly to be saved. Virginie showed her how to receive Christ. **What a joy to lead another child to Christ!**

God has been working in the lives of the adults in the church too. Patricia, Virginie's mother, made a decision to get baptized. She had been saved for over 15 years and due to pressure from her husband, never made the decision to follow the Lord in baptism. She said, "I just want to be obedient to my Lord and do what is right." I became the pastor in March 2017 and she asked me if I would baptize her. I was excited for her obedience and for the privilege to baptize for the first time as the pastor. **What a joy to see others follow Christ!**

In February we were able to celebrate the faithfulness of Don & Joy Williams (40+ years in France). The church was excited to be able to officially thank them for their investment and sacrifice here in Hierges. **What a joy to have Godly examples in France!**

We are still praying for those in the church who are away from the Lord and to be able to purchase the church building. We also desire to see a new family saved, baptized and added to the church. We are praying that God would guide us as we seek to update the church building. Will you continue to pray with us for these requests? Thank you for investing in the work in France.

Merci,



James & Virginie Carney



The French Press

With the James Carney Family

Dear Praying Friends,

In our last letter we shared some of the hardships of ministry in France, but we also mentioned how God is still working in our church and advancing His kingdom. Here are some of the church's advances from the months of November and December:

The church printed a two-sided flyer to invite the people in our community to join us for our Thanksgiving and Christmas activities. We coupled the invitations with a gospel tract and 11 people from our church and our sister church in Charleville (Pastor Danny Flowers) came to distribute the flyers. After eating lunch we handed out almost 1200 invitations in the towns of Winenne and Beauraing (right across the border in Belgium).

Most Europeans are curious about Thanksgiving and other parts of American culture. We take advantage of this curiosity and use it to draw people to Christ. We had a great Thanksgiving meal and we were delighted to have 7 unsaved visitors who were introduced to the gospel. We were blessed to have one of the church's missionaries come to report during the event.

For December we had several children's clubs where the true meaning of Christmas was explained and where we had a church member dress up as Santa Claus for the children. The kids were encouraged to be generous with the gospel message. We also prepared for a church dinner. Again, we had several unsaved visitors who heard a clear presentation of the gospel.

God blessed each of these efforts. The work is not done; we have much to accomplish before His return... thank you for supporting and praying for God's kingdom here in the dark kingdom of France. May "the light of the glorious gospel of Christ...shine" on France and may 2018 be a year of spiritual advancement for each of you!



Merci,

James & Virginie Carney

The French Press

With the James Carney Family

Dear Praying Friends,

This past year has been a time of trial for the church here in Hierges. One family left because of family persecution and doctrinal issues, another member was discouraged and left temporarily; a faithful worker in the church claims to have lost the faith, and another member has had severe health problems and has stopped coming to church. We have had major issues with the Cavimac (French social security) and we have encountered problems with putting the church property in the name of the church. Our situation is not unique, it is a normal part of ministry. Nehemiah encountered such problems when he set out to accomplish great things for God. However, one thing Nehemiah did not have in his spiritual arsenal that we have is dozens of churches filled with people who are praying for the work of God in France!!! Thank you for praying. Here are some of the things that your prayers are helping change:

Two new families have attended some special church activities. Both of these families have taken or are currently taking English lessons with us. Making contacts with people is the 'name of the game.' Another family from Declan's school attended another special church activity. **Praise the LORD!**

We published our website (<http://ebbardennes.com/>). One of our goals for the church has been to be available online. We also desire for France to have easier access to the gospel message.

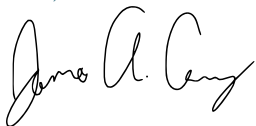
Daniel and Nadine started coming back to church. They were faithful for some time, but have been discouraged. Recently, when talking to Virginie, Daniel said, "We have been very discouraged, but we want to get back into church!" There are many Sunday-morning believers, aren't there? But this couple is even coming to the mid-week service. **What a blessing to see God work.**

The boys are all doing well and are learning French. William is about 5 months old and he is getting cuter by the second!

As far as the French social security issue goes, the Williams and we have both received an important document needed to reduce the charges (since we pay SS in the US). We are still waiting for the official acceptance letter from France, but prayerfully, it will come shortly. Most charges for the Williams have been reduced and our family will be transitioning to the French system the end of this year. **Keep praying for this, please!**

I recently discovered that there is a way to get the church property into the name of the church without having to pay high taxes and fees. It seems we will need to purchase the building from Brother Don. No banks will provide a loan to a church, but I have been informed that an agreement can be reached legally with minimal fees. **Please keep praying for this too!** Trials come but thankfully, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God" (Luke 18:27). Have a blessed Christmas!

Merci,



James & Virginie Carney

The French Press

By the James Carney Family

Dear Praying Friends,

Summer time is vacation time in France. Even if one does not go on vacation, that vacation spirit sets in and this can affect church attendance. Even so, summer time is a great time for the church because we are able to do special activities as a church family. We often joke that in order to be a Baptist, one must learn to eat and eat often. Not sure how true this is, but we do like to BBQ. Each time we have a special event, we use it as an occasion to invite people to church that would not come otherwise. Please pray for **Alain** and **Catherine** who attended our last BBQ. They come from time to time (only for special activities), but they need to be saved. Their son, **Damien**, is faithful in the church and helps teach during the Sunday school hour and leads the music. Please pray for him that he would grow in Christ and learn to lead in the local church.



Upon further research I have discovered that **Americans in France do need to pay into the French social security system.** I am still making inquiries, but both US and French authorities have said this is the case. I will be calling another specialist on this issue today (August 1st), but please pray that God would help us with this issue. The previous pastor (Donald Williams) still has a 23,000€ bill (\$27,000) pending with the Cavimac (French social security). Up until recently, we believed that Americans did not have to pay it, but the US embassy of Paris informed me that we do have to pay it. This would require that I stop contributing to the US social security system and transfer to the French system. This issue brings Matthew 19.29 to mind: “And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name’s sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.” Forsaking is part of being a missionary and it should not be shocking to have to do so. Getting out of Social security in the States is not the greatest news, but it is a reminder that France needs that Gospel and that forsaking some temporal things is necessary for the task.

We want to inform you that God has blessed us again with another healthy baby boy! **William John Carney** was born July 20, 2017 at 18:59 in Dinant, Belgium (closest hospital to us). At 7 pounds 13 ounces and 20 inches long, he is now the smallest member of our family. As always, we appreciate your prayers and faithful support. Thanks for helping us to serve God in France.



Merci,

James & Virginie Carney

The French Press

By the James Carney Family

Dear Praying Friends,

The past two months or so have been very busy as we transition into leadership here in Hierges. In March during a youth club, a young man made a profession of faith. I gave him a Bible reading plan for the book of John and encouraged him to read a few verses every day. By the next youth club, he had read the first 3 chapters of John. He is not allowed to attend church, but his parents allow him to come to the club. **Please pray** for Thomas that he would grow in his knowledge of Christ and that his parents would allow him to attend church. A few weeks after he received Christ as Savior I asked him if he remembered the decision he had made and he told me, **“Yes, I asked God to allow me into His family and to forgive me of my sins!”** Sometimes this answer may not be sufficient in highly church areas where people learn the lingo without the new life, but Thomas has just about zero Bible knowledge, so his response was encouraging.



The church in Hierges is going through a major legal battle. For a church to exist, it must be recognized by the government by becoming an association (well, that is if the church wants to collect offerings and receive monetary gifts). A church must then declare itself to Cavimac (the social security system of France for religious groups). The reason for this declaration is so that the church can pay the social security fees for each of its pastors. The figure requested is to the tune of 600-700€ per pastor per month! **Obviously, this kills small churches and church plants.** The catch is that Americans are exempt from this tax because they pay taxes in the States and are not supposed to be subject to double taxation (although American missionaries have other taxes that they pay in France). I have spoken with Cavimac several times and another organization that helps churches with such issues to find answers. Cavimac informed me that Americans are exempt from the social charges, but that a special paper had to be filled out every year to be exempt. Long story short, Cavimac is still taking us to court to make us pay the social charges (taxes) that they keep telling us on the phone we do not have to pay. The church became an association in 2014 and since then, the bill is currently at 23,000€ and counting. It could be years until we go to court to present our case and by then the bill could be doubled.

Please pray that God would grant us wisdom. If we have to accept the monthly payment of 600-700€, then so be it. However, our lawyer says we need to go to court and set a precedent. We are not supposed to pay, so we want to fight it, but we could still lose and be way over our heads in fees. **Please pray** for us to walk with God during this issue and to take all the right steps.



Merci,

James & Virginie Carney

The French Press

By the James Carney Family

Dear Praying Friends,

As you know, we arrived in France in May of 2013, right on schedule. Our plan was simple: 1. Study French in Lyon for 9-12 months, 2. Work with Donald & Joy Williams in Hierges, France for 2-3 years, and 3. Pray and seek God's will for our ministry. We have been praying specifically for God's guidance ever since He called us to be missionaries in 2010. We have completed each of these three steps as promised and now we are thankful and glad to announce that God has lead us to continue working here in Hierges. As of March 5th, I am the new pastor of the Eglise Biblique Baptiste de Hierges.



Before leaving the States back in May of 2013, Virginie and I spent many hours discussing our vision for ministry in France, but as can be expected, perspectives change when a missionary reaches the field. This is why we were careful not to set goals that could not be achieved. Our desire to give ourselves for the church has not changed nor has our desire to see nationals do the work of the church themselves. However, one observation that we have made since our arrival is that in France church is like a sit-down meal not a fast-food meal! This is not necessarily a bad thing, it is just the reality.

Ministry in France requires patient and persistent efforts. Ministry also requires some form of teamwork (a Biblical concept often neglected). One of the factors that God used to lead us to work in Hierges is that there is a new church plant 45 minutes south of here and two other churches north of us in Belgium (within an hour and a half) that provide wonderful opportunities for fellowship and teamwork. Our goal is to train the men and women of the church to be able to handle every aspect of the ministry on their own. From the Sunday school hour to the mid-week service, from the administrative tasks to the outreach, and from the setting of goals to the moving forward as a church. We are not sure how God will continue to lead as we minister here to the people of France, but we know that our job is to make disciples.

Another bit of news that is exciting is that our family is still growing. We are expecting our third boy this August. Please pray for Virginie as the pregnancy advances. She plays an important role in the woman's and children's ministries, so her being healthy is crucial. Please pray for us as we move forward as a church. Pray that God would continue to equip believers to serve Him.



Merci,

James & Virginie Carney

The French Press

By the James Carney Family

Dear Praying Friends,

Greetings! We hope you had a great conclusion to 2016 and that you have had a wonderful start to the new year. At our church we ended 2016 with a Thanksgiving celebration in November and a special Christmas party and service in December. We had 7 visitors for Thanksgiving and 5 for our Christmas party. **Please pray** for the salvation and growth of these visitors. It was great to see them attend these activities, but our goal is that they would respond to the gospel message and consecrate their lives to God.

In France there is a huge gap between God and the people. The gospel is simple, but the hearts of the people need to be prepared to receive it. People have many barriers that keep them from accepting the gospel. This is why we offer outreach activities at our church to facilitate people's coming to Christ. **Please pray** for us as we patiently and diligently sow the seed.



Thanksgiving

We are thankful to have Donald and Joy Williams back from their short furlough. God gave them a safe trip and we are all encouraged to have them back here. The French government is trying to make our church pay for social security (French SS) charges. This is normal in most cases, but since our current pastor is American, we are exempt from such charges since they are already paid in the United States. **Please pray** with us that God would clear this up quickly. We receive large bills every month and despite our filling out dozens of pages on different forms, we still have not been able to fix this.

November 6th we partnered with the Eglise Biblique Baptiste de Charleville to pass out some gospel packets in Sedan, a city about 20 minutes from Charleville. The goal of this outreach was to take our members outside of "their Jerusalem" to share the gospel. It was good to see several members out witnessing for Christ. **Please pray** for the seeds that were planted that God would give the increase. The Eglise Biblique Baptiste de Charleville will be coming to Hierges to help us do a similar outreach here in our area this spring. **Please pray** that God would guide us as we prepare for this event.



Please pray for our men's meetings the 18th of February. Several churches will be getting together to learn what God expects from them.

Virginie, Declan, Zachary and I are all very thankful for your faithfulness to support God's work in France. We are especially grateful for the most generous Christmas gifts you sent us. Thank you! As you can see there is much to pray about. We thank you for carrying our requests to God.

Merci,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James & Virginie Carney".

James & Virginie Carney

The French Press

By the James Carney Family

Dear Praying Friends,

When Jesus spoke to His disciples in Matthew 28, He gave them the command to make disciples. We are obeying this command by teaching others to walk with Christ. I taught the church on the importance of using your testimony for Christ and then I helped Olivier type out his testimony. The next day our church sent him to l'Église Biblique Baptiste de Charleville (missionaries Danny and Janice Flowers) for their third-year anniversary as a church. They did not know Olivier and his family were coming, but they were thrilled to have them there. Later he told me, "It was great; I am glad God could use me to touch others' lives." He said that one of the first-time visitors had tears in her eyes. It was great to see his desire and enthusiasm to share Christ. **Please pray** for all the men and women of our church as they use their testimonies to reach others.



Filling in for Donald and Joy Williams has been a blessing. Every time we fill-in for them or for the Flowers in Charleville, we learn so much. It is great to see God grant us wisdom as we minister in the Ardennes. **Please pray** that God would grant us more wisdom and that He would guide us as we lead in the church.

We mentioned several outreach activities that we have planned in our last prayer letter. Thank you for praying for each of these activities. We had a good BBQ in September and we had a wonderful Open Door Day in October. We had five first time visitors visit the church.

Next on the schedule is our Thanksgiving celebration. As a church family, we have been inviting people and praying for them to come. We are praying once again for several visitors to come and hear the Gospel. We know God is working in hearts. **Please pray** that God would bring people to repentance with the Gospel message.

Thank you for partnering together with us as we give ourselves for the church here in France. May God grant you a wonderful Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas!

Merci,


James & Virginie Carney



The French Press

By the James Carney Family

Dear Praying Friends,

As mentioned last prayer letter, I have been meeting with four of the men at our church to encourage them to take more responsibility in the church. The first thing we are working on is how to share their testimony. It is not a complicated task, but it is a good place to start. Plus, this gives me the opportunity to hear the men's stories about how they came to Christ and how they have grown since then. Please pray that God would equip these men for His work here in France.

The end of August we began 'filling-in' for Donald & Joy Williams. We will be 'filling-in' for them until next April. Please pray for Mrs. Williams' family (father, sister, and brother-in-law) who have had some health issues. Pray for them as they tend to their family and report to their supporting churches. We had the opportunity to preach at teen camp on two different occasions and it was much fun. The teens had more steam on the opening night, than they did on the closing night, but both nights were exciting.

Over the next four months we have planned a special outreach for each month. These events will help pull the members together in teamwork and give them opportunities to invite their friends and neighbors to come to an activity where the gospel will be given. People resist going to church, but we have found that outreach events function as a bridge to help people come to Christ. These efforts form an essential part of our outreach.

The first Sunday in September was our "back-to-school BBQ." We had a couple of unsaved people who heard the gospel. Then, in October, we will be having an "open door" event at the church. We have printed flyers and registered with a local radio station who will be announcing the event twice a day. Next, in November, we will be celebrating Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving appeals to people who are curious about American culture. Finally, in December, we will have a special Christmas service and party. This is usually one of the best attended events of the year. Please pray for these events.

As always, we appreciate your prayers. Please know that we pray for you and that we need your prayers as we patiently reach those who oppose themselves to the Truth (2 Timothy 2:25).

Merci,



James & Virginie Carney



The French Press

By the James Carney Family

Dear Praying Friends,

Just a week or so ago, I heard a knock at the door and I was surprised to see the clerk from the courthouse at my door. I immediately thought, "Oh boy, what did we do wrong?" But she was there to ask me if she could give my number to somebody who wanted help with English! This is the fourth time I have been asked to teach English. Even though none of my students have been saved, they have heard and seen that Christ loves them. Just recently, I have noticed that our neighbors have been more open to talking with us.

Here are some of the highlights of the past two months: (1) Men's meeting in Rixensart, Belgium; (2) Special Resurrection Sunday Service; (3) Mission Conference; (4) International Cooking Club; (5) Men and Women's meetings in Hierges; and (6) Preaching in a new church plant in Charleville. Both of these months were filled with many other activities, but these were some of the things that seemed to go well. Please pray for Laurence who made a profession of faith in March that she would grow in her knowledge of Christ. The English lessons are going well. I am currently giving one class per week. These lessons have given us an opportunity to talk about God and to make several contacts in our town. Getting to know people and making positive contacts is the name of the game here in rural France.

Ironically, people tend to like you more for being an American than for being a believer. They are not hostile (at least not all the time), but a believer's way of life is opposed 100% to theirs. The whole of French society is structured to meet the needs of the French (they have a club for everything here). This makes reaching them all the more difficult. Added to this is the fact that Baptists, in their eyes, are a cult. Unfortunately, this leaves you walking away from many a conversation looking like an alien. "C'est bizarre ça!" (That's strange!) is a common reaction we hear when we explain who we are and what we believe.

Virginie, Declan, Zachary and I want to thank you for praying and supporting God's work here in France. The work is hard and discouraging at times, but we know God guided us to France and we are praying that He will continue to guide us as we seek to give ourselves for His church here in the Ardennes.

In Christ,



James & Virginie Carney

Men at Hierges



Preaching at Charleville



The French Press

By the James Carney Family

Dear Praying Friends,

January and February have gone exceptionally well for the church. Several first-time visitors have attended our services and special events. We have had several opportunities to sit down and explain the gospel to some of our visitors. They have all heard the gospel, but only a few of them have allowed us to sit down and talk with them about it. One Sunday morning we had six visitors. It has been encouraging to see people respond to the invitations of friends and family. Jean-Michel and Manon were baptized in February; please pray that they would be faithful to grow and to attend church.

I have been giving English lessons once a week to two young people; the lessons are going well, but we are still praying for their salvation. I have been inviting them to our teen club on Saturdays. But, as is often the case here in France, they have so many other clubs (dance, soccer, basketball, art, etc.) that it is very difficult to find a day when the clubs could be well attended. We have changed our schedule several times to adapt, but there are always some that cannot attend. Although the English lessons do not seem to be yielding any immediate results, we have recently been asked by another neighbor to teach her son (Simon) as well. We knew when we chose to teach English that it would be a slow process, but we also knew that we needed to be present in our community as much as possible. These lessons are impacting our community in that people are getting to know us and they see that we want to help them.

Our family is doing well. Declan is now three and Zachary will be turning one in a few weeks. Mrs. Williams and Virginie recently started an international cooking club at the church that seems to be well received. The ladies that attended said that they really enjoyed it and that they are excited about the next club. Several of them are not saved. This is yet another way for us to reach people here in our community. Please pray for our clubs (cooking, teens, children etc.) that God would use them to see people saved. Thanks for being so faithful to pray for us and for your continued support.

Jean-Michel



Manon



In Christ,

James & Virginie Carney

The French Press

With the James Carney Family

Dear Praying Friends,

“I know God exists, but I don’t want to bother Him since He has more important things to do!”

“The truth is in all of us; it is up to us to find it; this is what Jesus did!”

Every week we encounter people with all kinds of different ideas, beliefs and views. There is no lack of opportunities here in France. Everywhere you look, there is a person in need of God. The most difficult part of our ministry is the simplest: “Sow the Seed and allow God to give the increase!”

As you know the end of September we returned to the States to visit our family and some of our supporting friends. We were scheduled to be in over twenty churches to report what God is doing in France. We visited churches in OH, TN, NC, GA, and FL while travelling over 6500 miles! We really enjoyed spending Thanksgiving with our family. It was so good to be able to ‘catch up’ with everybody. We had to postpone our departure date by one week due to sickness; we are now back working in *l’Église Biblique Baptiste de Hierges* with Donald & Joy Williams.

Virginie and I talk often about what God is doing in our lives and how we believe He is guiding us in our ministry. We still desire to give ourselves for the church by strengthening established churches and by seeing new churches. At the start of this letter I shared some quotes we often hear when sharing Christ with others. These two quotes, we believe, are the result of a people who do not have access to a church that preaches the Bible. France needs churches that will accept God’s Word and preach it without apology. Please pray that God would help **His** Church grow in France.

The past four months went by so quickly for us; it is hard to believe that 2016 is already here! 2015 was a very productive year for us: several people received Christ and were baptized; we were able fill-in for two pastors during their absence; and we came back and reported to over 20 of our supporting churches on the East coast! We thank you very much for your most faithful support; we wish you a wonderful start to the New Year. May God richly bless you!

In Christ,



James & Virginie Carney

Church Baptism



Family Time



Church in Hierges



Kid's Club



Virginie & James



Zachary & Declan





The James Carney Family And The French Press

Dear Friends,

July/August 2015

Church Culture

Today is the 1st of September; school officially starts today putting an end to the summer vacation season. Summer in France is a beautiful time, but for churches it is one of the toughest times of the year. The French are known for their long vacations and this definitely affects church attendance. In the churches of Charleville and Hierges people were gone from 2-6 weeks! Summer is a good time though to distribute invitations and tracts, which is what we did in both churches. We just printed 10,000 more gospel invitations for the Hierges church. **Please pray** for us as we share the Gospel in our community.

Fill-in Ministry

As you know in May we began 'filling-in' for Danny & Janice Flowers in *l'Église Biblique Baptiste de Charleville*. By the end of July we gave the keys back to the Flowers. We learned many invaluable lessons while working in the Charleville church. Now we are back working in *l'Église Biblique Baptiste de Hierges* with Donald & Joy Williams. (See photo)



Our Family

Zachary is now 5 months old, Declan is 2½ years old and Virginie and I are both old enough to know better! Last Tuesday (August 25) I (James) woke up early with a very sharp pain in my stomach. I went to the local doctor first thing in the morning and he sent me to the emergency room. After several hours of tests, the doctors found that I needed to have my appendix removed. Long story short, I don't have my appendix anymore! I was told to stay home for 10 days and not to lift anything over 10 pounds for 5 weeks. We are very thankful to God for His help with this because I had the same type of symptoms in January but the doctors couldn't find the problem. This time the pain was much worse, but once the appendix was removed, I felt much better. **Please pray** for a speedy recovery.

Our Plans

We are returning to the States for a two-month furlough. Our goal is to visit some of our supporting churches in the East that have new pastors whom we have never met. **Please pray** for us as we travel.

Special Opportunity

Please pray for Daniel and Claudine Luks whom we invited in to eat with us. We live right off a biking path and right beside a restaurant. We see dozens of bikes zip by our house every day, especially in the summer. These biking enthusiasts will often stop and eat at the restaurant before continuing their journey. However, the restaurant was closed and we saw a couple trying to figure out where to go to eat. So, we invited them to eat lunch with us. We shared Jesus with them, but they had never heard of the Jesus we shared. Their religion, according to them, was no particular religion, but rather the idea that truth is within people; it just needs to be found! We shared with them that Jesus was more than a teacher; He is God. We quickly noticed that they didn't reject the Bible; they just redefined It to fit their beliefs. Thank you for all you do for our family and the ministry here in France.

In Christ,

James & Virgine Carney



The James Carney Family And The French Press

Dear Friends,

May/June 2015

Fill-in Ministry

In May we began ‘filling-in’ for Danny & Janice Flowers in *l’Église Biblique Baptiste de Charleville*. It has been a blessing to see this young church grow in their knowledge of Christ. We taught through the first eleven chapters of Genesis and the book of Ephesians. We had several visitors and special services to honor the mothers and fathers in the church. The Flowers will be returning in mid-July.

Sophie, who was baptized into the Catholic Church, received two invitations and finally decided to come and visit. Within a few weeks and after a couple talks, she made a profession of faith. It was awesome to see how excited she was to learn that salvation is free. She recently wrote us a letter to express her gratitude and to thank us for sharing the Gospel with her. She also mentioned that she could no longer come to our church because it was so different from hers. We believe her priest has discouraged her. She was not at church this last Sunday; please pray as we follow-up with her and encourage her to follow Christ. Please pray that God would help her grow. This is not the first time this has happened. Often people will stop coming to church because of family members and friends who tell them the Baptist church is a cult or that if they come to our church, they can no longer be a part of the family or be friends. These pressures are very real here in France.



Church Culture

“I am very confused; all churches claim to be telling the truth!” When starting a new church or working in a church here in France, you will inevitably have people visit from other “Christian” churches. These people think we are one and the same with them, but without fail, so far, all we have seen from these visitors is that they have been taught so much false doctrine that they seem to be beyond hope. Unfortunately, the main false doctrine they adhere to is that salvation can be lost. While working in the church in Charleville, we have encountered several people who are very confused and frustrated with religion. Some of them are devils that come to cause problems, but some of them are truly searching. Ask God to give us wisdom and discernment as we minister to those He brings to us.

Our Family

Zachary and Declan are both doing well. Zachary is now almost four months old. We recently went to the US embassy in Brussels to apply for his US passport. Virginie and I are doing well too. We just celebrated six years of marriage and the good news is that we still like and love each other!

Our Plans

We are very thankful for the ministry God has given us here in Hierges, France. We are extremely thankful for your prayers and support. Before our arrival in France, our plans were to study in Lyon, France for 9-12 months, to work with Don & Joy Williams in Hierges, France for 2-3 years, and then to follow God’s lead. We have just completed one year here in Hierges and we are excited to see what God has for us this next year.

Thank You For Your Prayers & Support,

James & Virginie Carney





The James Carney Family And The French Press

Dear Friends,

March/April 2015

Opportunities

"I'll come to church when there are no more wars and we all live in peace," said a man as we gave him a Gospel tract and an invitation to our church. This response shows how people view religion and God.

"Are you a cult?" This is one of my favorite questions because I reply, "No, we're not catholic, we're Baptists!" Ha Ha! We hear this question less often, but when one asks it, we love sharing what we believe.

I am still giving two English classes and now a guitar class as well. Christophe brings his daughter Louane to the church for guitar lessons every Thursday. It would be a great joy to see her use her desire to play the guitar in church. Please pray for Louane, that God would use her. Our church has a video presentation of the Gospel and I gave a copy of it to some of the English students. I am praying that they will watch it and that God will speak to their hearts. These English lessons have given me a means to work on my French and to make contacts. Please continue to pray for Marie, Evelyne, Denis, and for the Coelho family.

Family

On March 19, 2015 Zachary Joel Carney was born at 22:14 in Dinant, Belgium weighing 8.9lbs and measuring 20.5 inches. (He was two weeks early) Virginie and Zachary are both doing well and Declan seems to enjoy having a new brother. Please pray for us as we do the paperwork for Zachary in Paris for his US passport. We also have some minor paperwork to do for Declan here in France. **GOOD NEWS!** On March 5th I received my French residence card. Because Virginie is French, my card is good for 10 years instead of 1 year. (This will save time and money.)

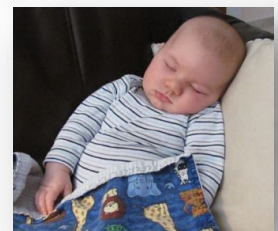


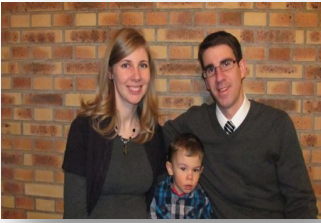
Church

We printed a new invitation (Picture below: *Where Faith and the Family Meet*) for our church and have started distributing it in our area. Please pray that we would see souls saved and added to the church. On April 30th Donald & Joy Williams returned to France. We had a wonderful time filling-in for them since mid-January. (In all, we have filled-in for them three times over the years) Thank you for praying for us! In our last letter we also asked you to pray for the new believers in our church. Some of them have come to church and we are thankful for this. They are not coming faithfully, but we have at least seen them a time or two. I believe this is God's answering our prayers. Please continue to pray for Janique, Maxime, Samantha, Jimmy and Lysiane that they would be faithful to church. Please pray for us as we fill-in for the Flowers starting in May in the newly planted Bible Baptist Church in Charleville-Mezieres.

Thank You For Your Prayers & Support,

James & Virginie Carney





The James Carney Family And The French Press

Dear Friends,

January/February 2015

New Opportunities

“I hear an accent, are you from around here?”
“No, I am American.”
“You don’t give English lessons do you?”
“No.”

I had this conversation with a woman in our local courthouse several weeks ago. I immediately began to think about her question and I remembered that we had been praying for more opportunities to share the Gospel, so, I began talking to her. She explained that she had two teenagers who needed help with their homework. I told her that I had given English lessons before and that I might be able to help. Within a few weeks we met at our house to see if I would be able to help them. I had the opportunity of telling them why we are here in France and what the Gospel is. The good news is that Mrs. Coelho was still interested in my tutoring her children. We have already met on four different occasions; **please pray for this family, that they would receive the Gospel.**

“You wouldn’t be interested in starting up an English class, would you?”
“Maybe, why do you ask?”
“My boss and her husband want to ‘brush up’ on their English before taking a trip to Fiji.”
“Give them my number and I will see if I can help them.”

This is yet another opportunity to share the Gospel with people who would probably never come to church on their own. **Please pray for this second group who is interested in learning English. Pray that God would help me as I prepare for the first class and as I share the Gospel with them.** We will be meeting at our church on Wednesdays.

Family

We are not sure about the details of the birth, but it looks probable that our new addition will be here by the end of March. **Please pray that baby Carney #2 would arrive safely. Please pray for DR Lucienne Nana as she performs the delivery and for her to receive the Gospel message. Declan is doing well; he is now two years old and full of life! Please ask God to grant us the wisdom needed to raise our two sons.**



Church

Several people who made professions of faith during the summer have not been attending faithfully. We are praying for them as a church and doing what we can to encourage them; **please pray for Maxime, Samantha, Janique and Lysiane to come to church and grow spiritually.** Since early January Virginie and I have been ‘filling in’ for Don & Joy Williams during their furlough. As soon as they return, we will be ‘filling in’ for Danny & Janice Flowers in Charleville-Mézières. **Please ask God to grant us wisdom as we lead and serve in these two churches.**

Thank You For Your Prayers & Support,

James & Virginie Carney



The James Carney Family And The French Press

Dear Friends,

November/December 2014

We 'looked forward' to our Thanksgiving celebration; our church family planned, prayed and invited their neighbors, friends and family members. We invited our landlord and his family (The Coubeau's) and they came! We had the privilege of explaining our beliefs and the Gospel. We had plenty of good food, games, testimonies, and we shared the Gospel. Thanksgiving is not celebrated here in Europe, so it was a first for many. During the invitation Isabelle raised her hand to testify that she had trusted Christ as Savior. As she was leaving she said, "Thanks, that answered some questions I had!" Clearly, God had been working in her life.

It is encouraging and exciting to see God at work. We moved to Chooz in the summer and began working in the Bible Baptist Church in Hierges. It has truly been a blessing to come to France as missionaries. The first year was very different for us as we adjusted to our new life and work, and now, after six months in our new church family, we are even more thankful for God's leading us here.



We are very thankful to those of you who have faithfully supported us and prayed for us. You have gone 'above and beyond' to minister to us. We appreciate the special gifts that you send us. Merci!

We were able to purchase and install a small sound system in the church. Our church building is not very large, but our main goal was to be able to broadcast the services to the nursery. Lately, our nursery has grown; we now have three families with babies! We would also like to be able to record some of the messages. Thanks for praying for this project; it has proven to be challenging, but rewarding.

The due date for baby #2 is April 1, 2015!! The appointments are going well. The essential news is still the same: there is still one and he is still a boy!

Thank you for those who have been praying for our children's club. Louane and Léane, who had informed us that they could no longer come to the club, have recently been able to attend. We are very thankful for this answer to prayer. Please pray for these children as they grow in their knowledge of God. Some of them are saved and growing; others are hearing the Gospel.

We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and a wonderful start to 2015. We wish you a wonderful new year.

Sincerely,

James & Virgine Carney



The James Carney Family And The French Press

Dear Friends,

September/October 2014

Fall is officially upon us here in the Ardennes. The leaves are turning and the weather is cooling down. We live in a beautiful part of France, especially around this time of the year. But even more beautiful than the foliage is the transformation that God has been doing in and around our church...

Family Update

Virginie is expecting our second boy! We are very excited about this new addition to our family. The due date is early April 2015. Dr. Lucienne Nana is our doctor. Please pray for her as we continue to share the good news with her.



Church Update

The church is looking to buy a sound system to enable us to broadcast the sermons to the nursery. I have been given the task of setting it up. Please pray for us as we choose one and set it up. My only prayer is that it will work! The whole church has been hard at work inviting people to our special Thanksgiving outreach. We are praying and hoping to see lives changed. Brother Don and I had the opportunity of seeing **Janique Boissard** receive Christ in early September. In October, **Christophe Beken**, a new convert, informed the church that he led his mother, father, sister and sister's boyfriend to Christ! Please pray for these new believers that God would help them on their journey with Him.

Personal Note

God's Word has proven to be just as powerful in French as it is in English. We are thankful for this. We are leaning on the Bible to make a difference here in the Ardennes. I recently encouraged the church to trust in God's Word and to be faithful to share It daily with others. It has been great to see God at work. Generally, most here do not know much about the Bible or the Baptist faith, this makes it so much more refreshing to share the Gospel with them. Seeing God's Word change lives has definitely increased our faith in God.

Word From Virginie

The French school system has a half-day on Wednesday, so my home church started a children's club. I started by teaching the Gospel and now I am teaching on Creation to counter-balance the evolution being taught in the schools. Louane and Léane are no longer able to attend due to a schedule conflict. They have been very attentive and faithful to the club. Louane received Christ several months ago and both have been growing; please pray that God would make a way for them to come so they can become the women God wants them to become. **THANK YOU** to those who sent me birthday wishes and gifts; I am very grateful for your kindness. **Thanks!**



In Christ,

James A. Carney



The Carneys

Reaching the
People of
FRANCE

Virginia

James

“Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.”

Ephesians 5:25b

Evangelism

*

Discipleship

*

Church Planting

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