



Young's E-news from Marseille

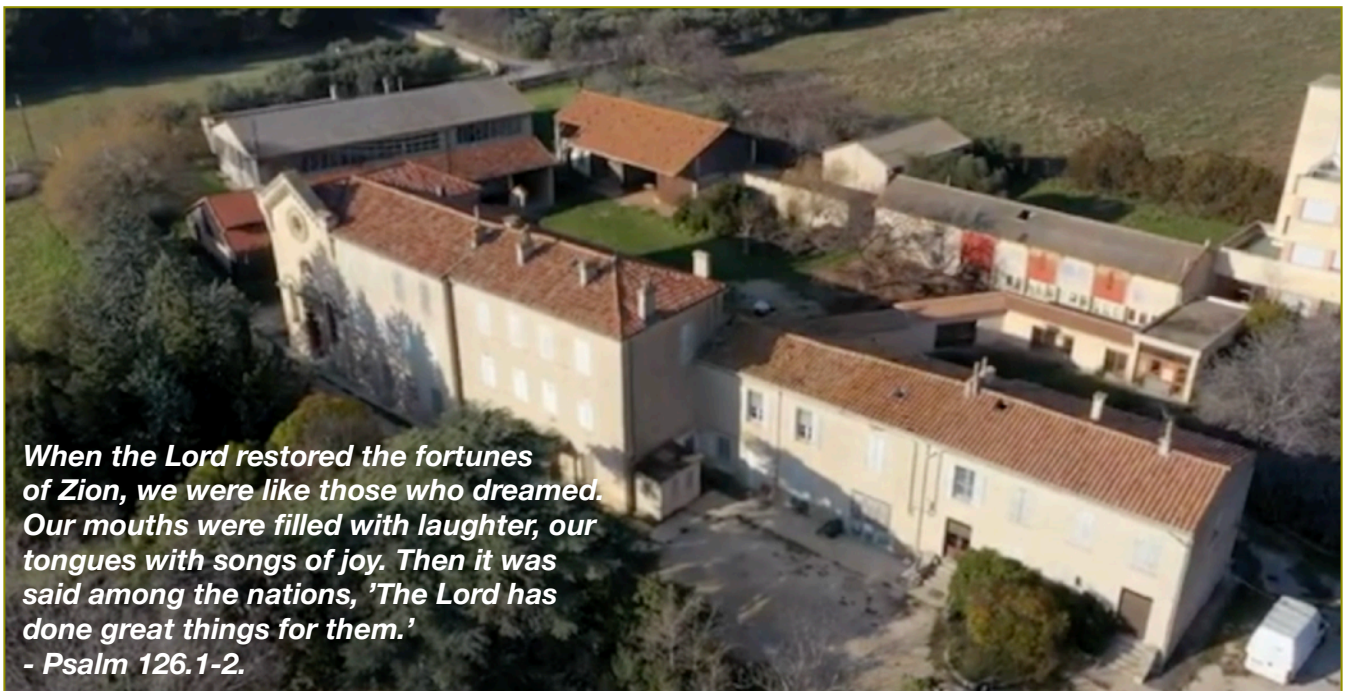
- Purchase Agreement Signed for the Betheline
- Harmony Bible Camp
- CEM Summer Mission Week
- CEM Graduation and 25 Year Celebration
- Pitman Mission Week
- Family News

Craig and Katie Young

August 2024

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Purchase Agreement Signed for the Betheline!



When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed. Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.'
- Psalm 126.1-2.

The Lord has done great things!

After seven years of searching and a year of negotiations, we signed a purchase agreement for the Betheline Monastery!

The Battle Continues

But we are not there yet! God has opened the door. Now the work of taking possession begins! We have much to do.

Please pray... We still have much work and many hurdles to overcome with French administration, with the city zoning board and with support raising.

...and partner. If you feel led to partner with us, please see **the flyer and FAQ attached to this newsletter for details on how to participate!**

All other Kingdom work continues - read on!



Above: Craig and Katie contemplating the greatness of God at the Betheline Monastery immediately after signing the purchase agreement on July 29th.

Harmony Bible Camp 2024

We shared 15 incredible days of Harmony Olympics (July 11-25) with just under 100 campers: it was an amazing time at Harmony Bible Camp 2024. Our teen group was a huge blessing, and made my multiple roles a joy. Four of our teens were baptized, and all of them were eager learners and great participants.

I was overseeing director for the 50 teens, and Jeremiah Hostetter did a great job in his role as director in training (in France the director certification takes 4 years). I also oversaw the work crew (kitchen, cleaning, laundry, upkeep).

But without a doubt, my greatest joy at camp this year was being a counsellor to my room of 8 awesome teenage guys! What a treat! Our evening devos always went into overtime. God was at work in a mighty way!



Teen devotional at the *Trois Croix* (3 crosses) hilltop.



Round up to pray before lunch.



Juliette



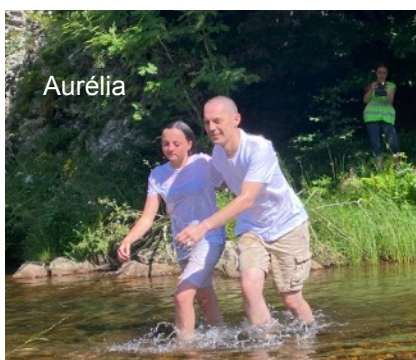
Adam



Ella

A special joy with the baptisms this year was the role the fathers played. After Philippe baptized **Juliette** (a friend of his daughter Aurélia) who lives near the church, Christophe (from near Avignon) baptized his son **Adam**, then former CEMiste Canden from Mauritius baptized his daughter **Ella**, before Philippe baptized his daughter **Aurélia**.

Our staff of over 40 adults worked tirelessly and joyfully together to share the Good News of God's love with our 93 campers. Next year we will celebrate 30 years of Harmony Bible Camp!



Aurélia



Juliette, Aurélia, Ella and Adam

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CEM Summer Mission Week

This year's CEM summer week of mission (July 1-7) was blessed by the international participation of **Maredith** from Morocco, **Nidal** from Lebanon, **Canden, Ella, Shanna and Méline** from Mauritius Island in the Indian Ocean.



Above: Maredith helps prepare sandwiches for the homeless.

Maredith shared with us her project to create a center for handicapped children on a section of the family farm where CEM students have helped out.

Nicce and his wife **Gah** had to flee Lebanon because of the war that is touching the Middle East. They are now adjusting to life in France.

Canden was a CEM student 20 years ago and is now coming back

to be encouraged in the mission with his teenage children. Last year he brought the boys, this year he brought the girls.

As always, the CEM mission week ended with an evangelistic concert, this year performed by 70 choristers under Katie's direction.

Right: Shanna, Méline and Ella from Mauritius Island.



Above: Nicce teaches in Arabic (Roger translates) on sharing one's faith with Muslims.



Harry and Hannah Baptized

Harry is a young man of faith who spent the year worshipping with us and studying the Bible with Romain. **Hannah**, daughter of co-workers Jeremiah and Brittney Hostetter, has grown up in the faith and now claimed it as her own.

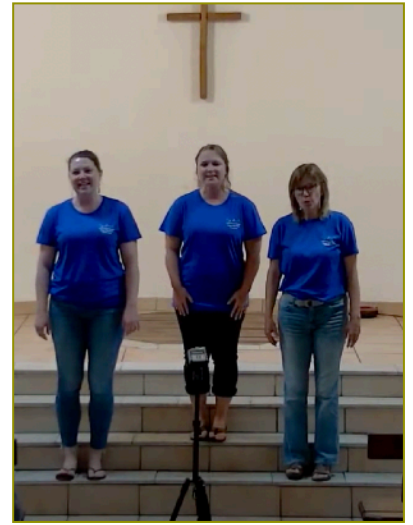


Above: Harry baptized.



Above: Jeremiah baptizes Hannah.

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Above: The 70 strong CEM Summer Chorus under Katie's direction. Plus a special treat, a trio from Emilie, Esther and Katie.

CEM 2024 Graduates

Maël, Alicia, Anna and Simon (and Joshua!)

What a blessing to spend a year encouraging and training in the mission the servant hearts of **Maël, Alicia, Anna** and **Simon**, with a shout out to **Jackson Osebreh**, who was a blessing by our side for the first half of the year.

Alicia, from Berne, Switzerland, will return home to study physical therapy this Fall.

Anna and Simon (midwife and doctor respectively) will stay in Marseille for the coming year while Simon completes his dissertation.

Maël, with a degree from *La Sorbonne*, will also stay in Marseille and be working at the nearby school where a great number of our church children attend.

Please keep them all in your prayers during this time of transition.



Above: CEM 2024 graduates: Maël, Alicia, Anna (Joshua) and Simon.

CEM Celebrates 25 Years



Above: CEM teaching staff: Craig, Romain, Justin, Philippe, Jeremiah, Max and Khaled.

Left: All CEMistes who were able to be present for the 25-year celebration.

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9th Biannual Pitman Mission Week



For almost 20 years now, the **Centre Bonnefoi** has been blessed through the biannual work weeks, or « Pitman Mission Weeks » that have been faithfully organized by **Dan Cooper**. In that time, over 120 participants have come to serve! **Jay Schneider** has been on all of them! **Sherri Herndon** and **Carl Steiner** made their 8th and **Joe Marshall** his 6th trip this year! We are truly grateful!

The group of 24 servants came to devote a week to the mission work here. For the first time, we had a change in program and spent two days of work to the new **Leydet property** before heading up to the **Centre Bonnefoi**.



Above: Dan Cooper hard at work at the Centre Bonnefoi.

Above: Jay Schneider, who has participated in all 9 mission trips, hanging drywall at Centre Bonnefoi with CEM 2025's Till Oudelin.

Right: Making the connection. The Pitman group helped install a new door connecting the church to the new Leydet Property (see photo below).



Summer Happenings

The new Leydet property (below) provided the perfect setting for our 25-year CEM celebration. With a direct connection from the church fellowship room to the property now in place, the outdoor area will be in constant use for large group activities as well as multiple activities for local children.

Worship Leader Institute (WLI) After the visit of Keith and Sharon Lancaster in April, we encouraged Simon to join Craig and spend a week in training for worship leaders at WLI under Keith's direction. God provided and we loved every minute of a very intensive week!



Above: Khaled's mother visited from Algeria and attended church for the first time in her life!

Below: Craig and Simon at WLI.



Leydet property - 25 year CEM banquet





Family News

Daniel is growing beautifully (now 9 months) and is already an international traveler. Emilie had a business trip to Spain in June and needed a baby-sitter. Katie was quick to oblige and they had a great time!

So fun to watch him grow!



Right: Enjoying family time in August!



Esther & Jackson

Thank you for praying for Esther and Jackson. They have a double dose of exciting news to share. First, after much prayer and reflection, Esther and Jackson have decided to move to Marseille for the coming year and continue their ministry here. Needless to say, we are thrilled by this news and looking forward to having them nearby.

But there is even bigger news: Esther and Jackson are looking forward to becoming parents in February 2025!



Emilie & Rob and Daniel

After Emilie's business trip to Spain, we had the joy of hosting Emilie and Daniel during the CEM summer mission week. Then in August we had a short visit to the States to stay with Craig's Mom and also enjoy time with Emilie and Rob and Daniel as well as Garth and Diana.

Rob and Emilie are enjoying serving at their church in Franconia, PA while still finding time to invest in the work in France, in particular with the Betheline monastery project.



This Fall

Together, and with the help of many others, we are beyond excited and ready to take on the challenge of the Betheline monastery project that God has delivered into our hands, as we had prayed! Thank Him with us!

May we do so with the courage and joy of Caleb who eagerly chose to take on the difficult task in his service to God!

We love you and thank God for you! Craig & Katie



Above: Joel and Claire back in France with us at former CEMiste Constance's wedding in central France, August 24th



Above: Our 'adopted daughter' Nasy enjoying a fun moment in the kitchen with Katie on a visit at the end of August.