



Bonjour Everyone,

We have lots of news to share, but I wanted to start out this letter just by saying, kind of like Paul does in some of his letters, now that I think about it, that I thank God for y'all. There are so many of you: churches and individuals who support us, pray for us, encourage us and care for us. This has been a wonderful but also very challenging season for us and it makes so grateful for the friends and family (including church family) that God has given us. Being here is not always a picnic, but it's always rich getting to serve God where he has called you, and we are able to do that because he has put it into your hearts to be a part of what we are doing here. I just want to start this letter of by saying how much that means to us. Thank you.

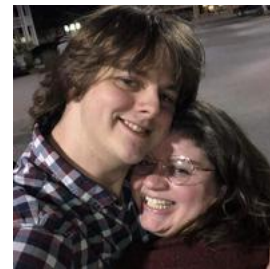
There is a lot to get to, so I guess let's get to it :-).

The Stauffers

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Turning the page



Me and Florent



So, just under 20 years ago, I prayed and told God I was ready to follow whatever direction he would give me, if he would just be really clear as to what he wanted me to do. The next day (true story) this guy calls me up, tells me his name is Florent, that he's a pastor in France, and asks me if I would consider moving there to work with him at his church in Lyon. We arrived in April of 2002 and have been serving in that church ever since- until this past weekend.

Sunday was our last time to serve at the Lyon church (at least as our home church) and we are now officially part of the church in Trevoux. It is one of the churches the Lyon church has planted over the last few years. Trevoux is a village northeast of Lyon, sitting on the banks of the Saone River.

We have been making a gradual transition to our new church home since September, and the church in Lyon is well equipped to carry on just fine. There is a team of people in place (about 35 people all told) who serve in





some capacity on the worship team at the church. We even have a secretary (Jennifer, you are amazing!!) to handle communication and administration details for the worship team. There is a well-established environment at the church for singing and the team prepares diligently each week to serve the church on Sunday morning. All of that will remain, but the church will also be able to evolve to the next step (wherever God leads). Cheryl and I will be able to serve where we feel God has called us now, where there is more of a need, just as he called us to the Lyon church all those years ago.

The Lyon church gave us a wonderful send-off and we are so grateful to God for sending us there and it will always be a part of us. There is no way for me to express what that place, and especially those people, mean to us. We are so thankful for having had that opportunity. They will still be part of our lives because we are just moving 40 minutes up the road to a church in the same family of churches. There are many people there we will always consider family.



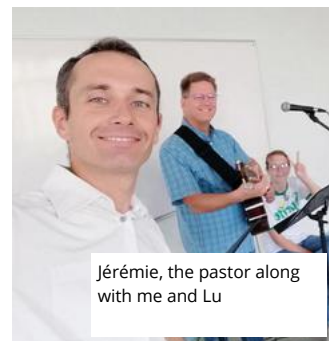
Our new church home



So now what????? It's a reasonable question, especially for all of you who have been following us and supporting us all these years. The first thing is, I'd like to introduce you to our new church home. Names of churches in France tend to be REALLY long. The official name of the church is "L'Eglise Protestante Evangélique Saône Vallée" which translates to the "Protestant Evangelical Church of the Saône Valley", but we just call it "Trevoux", which is the name of the village.

We had a big Sunday for us recently where we had 50 adults. That's less than half the size of the Lyon church was when we got there. It is a small church family, and Cheryl and I have never been part of such a small church before, even though this is much closer to what the average church looks like in France. We are so excited about this new adventure and are ready to dive completely into the church life of our new church home. The folks here have been warm and welcoming and we are learning to love and appreciate the intimacy and relational aspects of being part of a smaller church. For one thing, there is still work to be done, but fewer people to do it, so it feels like everybody pitches in. The church has a wonderful closeness to it that we really enjoy.

We are currently meeting in a small municipal room that the mayor of Trevoux is letting us use. That's because next month, in March, we break ground on our own church building. It's so exciting. The city has found us a small plot of land; God has moved in an incredible way so that the construction is fully (or almost fully) funded. So, as a church, we are trying to make the most of this year where we are without a home of our own, excited about moving into our own place, perhaps as early as Christmas.



Jérémie, the pastor along with me and Lu





Picture of our future church building

Trevoux as seen from the Saône River

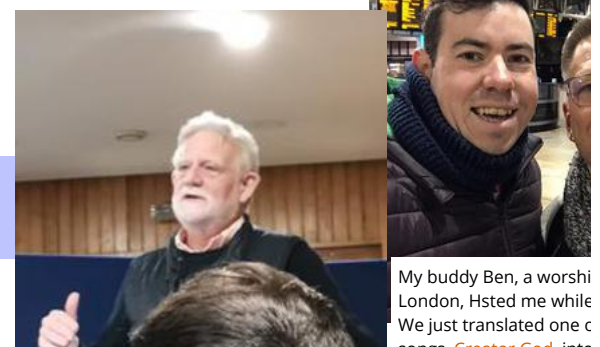
New ministry opportunities

Along with our moving to the new church, God has opened up other doors for new ministries. Many of you know that I have been involved with [Hymnes 21](#), the part of the French [Gospel Coalition \(called Evangile 21\)](#) devoted to music/worship in the French church. We have now put in place an executive committee of sorts to lead and develop Hymnes 21 and I have been asked to lead that group. It's a privilege and a responsibility that I don't take lightly. I recently went to London to a [Music Ministry](#) conference where I was able to learn more about how they train and equip worship leaders in the UK and see how we might learn from them, as well as what we might be able to adapt to what we do here in France. It was really inspiring for me and gave me a greater vision of what H21 could become. For one thing, we are looking at doing an H21 worship leader training in Lyon in 2021. Very exciting.

Also, I will be leading a team of musicians I have put together from all over France, Switzerland and Belgium to lead the worship for the 4-day [Evangile 21 conference](#) at the end of May. It's the first time E21 has decided to not invite a group to come in from the outside to do the music, but is instead entrusting it to us. There will be around 1,100 attendees, mostly pastors, elders and their wives from all over French-speaking Europe. To be honest, while it is really exciting to get to be a part of, it's a huge job of organisation and coordination and I'm beginning to feel the pressure to get everything done! I am also continually learning to rely on God and not myself as I stretch out of my comfort zone into these new endeavors.



Planning for the E21 conference in May



My buddy Ben, a worship leader in London, hosted me while we just translated one of our songs, [Creator God](#), into

MUSIC
MINISTRY

Florent and Tim Keller on stage together at the 2018 Conference



The Geneva Bible Institute (IBG)

This year's group from IBG will be performing their program for the first time this weekend. Each year the group is responsible to put on some form of concert that is meant to be an outreach to non-christians. Churches host the group and we publicize it and they invite people to come and hear about Jesus from this group of Bible students, but in a different way. The last few years we have really changed the way we create the program. It has evolved into more of a play with a lot of music than a concert. The students create the story and work with us in picking songs. Then my colleague Joel and I write the arrangements for the choir and have until February to put it all together. The change in how we do this came about several years ago when some of the students approached me and said, "Kevin, you are asking the wrong questions. You are trying to communicate to people that God is real and He loves them, thinking that will interest them. It's not just that they don't believe God exists, it's that they just don't care. We need to go about this another way."

This year the group is tackling the concept of our idol: everything we try to put in our lives in place of God. The title of the play is "We Have Tried **Everything**". The story is well done, there is quite a bit of humor, and it makes a point of addressing the issues facing 20-somethings in 2020. There are about 10 songs woven into the story. They have worked hard, especially in the last several weeks, and our prayer is just that God use this "show" for his glory and people can hear the message of Christ in what we do.





Family News/Prayer Requests

Kev-

If you've read this far, then you can see that an awful lot is changing for us. On top of all I have written about already, some of you may remember that I plan to be starting seminary in the fall. I will be doing an online Masters in a program called Crosslands Bible Training that allows missionaries on the field, like myself, to receive training without coming off the field. We will be in the States this summer (more on that below) and I **am going to need to raise some additional support to be able to pay for classes. Please be praying that God will make provision for this.** As my ministry becomes more and more about teaching and equipping the larger French church, I believe that these studies will be invaluable to my ability to help churches think intentionally about how prepare for and conduct their worship time.

Cheryl-

Cheryl just continues to amaze me. She has gone through a MAJOR job transition and God has blessed her efforts and she has found a way to do a mix of teaching, translating, proofreading and editing that has almost replaced her income from her previous job. Since she is now working from home, she has more flexibility to be available for ministry, for me and for the kids. She has changed her lifestyle quite a bit and has lost over 25 pounds since September and she is a real inspiration to me. As I go through all these changes, Cheryl's role of how she is involved with me in that ministry is also evolving. Please pray for her as she finds a new normal in this new chapter of our life.

Lucy-

Lucy is 16. It's a tough age. Without going into details, she is going through some difficult times right now. I would just ask that, if you pray, think of her in your prayers and ask God to give her direction. Her mom and I wouldn't mind prayers for wisdom either for that matter. We think she is a neat kid, but adolescence is not the easiest of times and we would appreciate your prayers for all of us.

Mark and Carlie

So, here's so big news: Mark and Carlie got married! They are still going to be having a celebration as planned in August, but they had a small civil ceremony and are already official. WHY, you ask? Well, turn their wisdom teeth out and they found out it would cost them around \$1,500 if he was on her insurance, that seemed like a no-brainer! Carlie, welcome to the family and all I can say is Bless your heart!



Katy-

Katy seems to finally be over all the medical issues she has faced this past year. She is taking classes at the University and is also making some extra money working with a babysitting agency in Lyon that offers babysitters that speak *English*. She is continuing to grow and mature, and it's exciting to think of how God might use her in the future. She is, at some point, going to need to go spend some time in a Spanish-speaking country to finish her degree, so if anyone has any ideas, we're open. Please pray for her to continue to grow in the Lord and for direction for the future.

We are headed to the States this summer. I will be going around to visit all of our supporting churches, as many as possible of our individual supporters, you name it. I will be leaving for the States the first week of June and will be there through all of August. I will start to get in contact with lots of people the next few weeks to start the madness that is planning the summer calendar. Especially pastors/church leaders: please be thinking about/discussing how we would make the most sense for me to visit and I will be in touch shortly to discuss dates. Thank you all for your hospitality and patience. We look forward to seeing you all.

Well, that's all for this time. Thanks for taking the time to catch up with us. As always, we love hearing back from y'all. So if you have a minute, please send us a quick note back.

Kev for the Stauffers