

## January 25 Update

1 message

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## Happy New Year, Everyone!

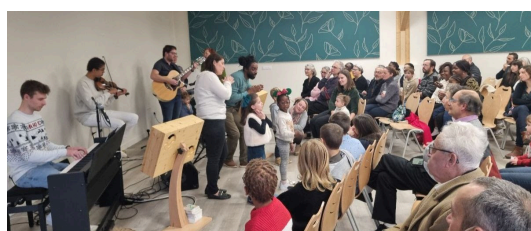
I hope this New Year finds you well. Most of you are like us: you have had some wonderful things happen this year, and some really hard things happen this year. For us, it has been a time to learn to rejoice and give God glory for the victories and to try to draw nearer to him in times of difficulty. As I reflect on all that God has done this year and over the last two decades of our time here in France, I find myself needing to lean more and more on God each year. This is a good thing because I am sure that is how he wants us to be: continually making him a more integral part of our lives.

Without going into detail, I will just share with you all that these last few months have been very hard for us. Personal challenges, ministry challenges, lots of new transitions. I can't tell you how much I appreciate those of you who pray for us regularly. We are so grateful for the support team that so many of you

reading this are a part of. I know this has been a difficult year for many of you as well. Please know that we are always glad to pray, so don't hesitate to reach out if you would like. For those of you who are on our support team, both individuals and churches, we pray for you and, as Paul did for his support team, we thank God for you.

So, here is a bit of what has been happening since our last letter.

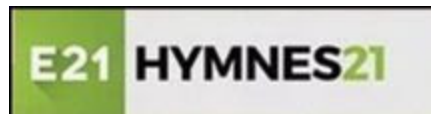
## Ten Years in Trevoux



We just celebrated the 10th anniversary of the church in Trevoux. It hardly seems possible. I can still remember sitting in elders meetings at the Lyon church and discussing the desire to plant a second church west of the city since we had successfully planted to the east. This has been our church home since

just before the pandemic, which was an adventurous way to try to integrate into a new church family.

The church continues to grow steadily. I really appreciate Jérémie, our pastor, and I think he and I make a great team. Cheryl and I love being a part of this community of believers and love serving here. God continues to do great things.



Most of you reading this will know that Hymnes 21, a group that I head up, is all about equipping those leading worship in the French church to be able to be more intentional about how they lead the church in sung worship. The French church will probably always use lots of translations of English songs (until Jesus comes back), so we are all about promoting songs that we think will be helpful in fulfilling the mandate of Col. 3:16, to help our churches sing the word, so that it can "dwell richly in us".

It has become apparent that H21 isn't going to grow into what it could be to help churches unless I get out of my comfort zone and start really getting behind these many, many projects that we have in the works. That means getting better at doing "studio stuff." That means finding people who are gifted at this stuff who can help us. That means organizing more projects and facilitating more people to work on these projects than ever before, including identifying songs, translating them, recording them, producing them, producing French sheet music, getting them online for the French church to have access to them, and promoting them so that the churches know these songs are available to them.

So, as I am about to start my last semester of my master's program, I will in principle start to have more time and energy to devote to this, but even typing the above "to-do list" made my stomach tighten. It's just a lot. However, by God's grace, and as a response to much prayer, God has put more and more people in my path that want to be a part of this.

I am now working with David, a great musician and producer who has a studio in Lyon, as well as Pascal, who lives in Belgium and who recorded all the tracks for us during the last TGC conference last May. David will be working with us to get some of our newer songs out over the next several months, such as Sovereign Grace Music's [My Soul Will Wait](#), based on Psalm 62, and several songs from the Gettys as well as Matt Boswell and Matt Papa. I was just in Belgium at Pascal's studio, and we have identified about a dozen (of the 35 songs we recorded) that we think can be produced into sort of an H21 live album from the conference.

It's super exciting and the answer to prayer. It means that things will finally start moving forward at a much faster pace, but it also means that we have a lot more work to do and a lot more to keep up with. Like I said earlier—leaning on God.







## The Geneva Bible Institute

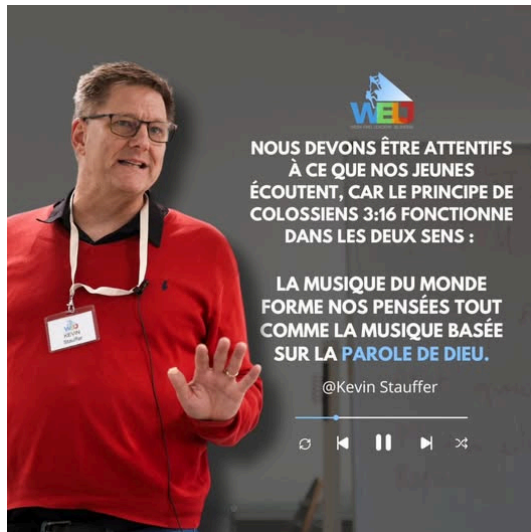


Institut Biblique de Genève

This is my 20th year teaching at IBG. It's still something I'm very excited about. I have a few roles there. I teach a class to first-year students on worship and how to think about designing a church service. I also help them prepare to be able to go into churches and lead worship as a group. Lastly, one weekend each year (I just did this a couple of weeks ago) I get to work with youth leaders from all across France. I do a course on knowing the music on their kid's phones and using that as a bridge to talk with them about the gospel. We go over how to do it, then break the leaders up into groups, and they are given a song that is



in the "top 10" in France that week. They have to analyze the song's message (including the video), come up with scripture that addresses the song, and prepare a bible study for a youth group on that song using the scripture, and everyone shares what they came up with. It's always interesting to see what the teenagers are listening to and how the youth leaders respond.



Well, that is all for this update. I'll send out another at the end of February. We leave this weekend for Lisbon for a conference for all the Encompass missionaries in the field. I have been asked to speak a bit about the leadership training that we are doing here in France, as well as our church plants, so I would appreciate prayers for that and for our travel. Cheryl is doing really well with her new (since May) job helping to train A.I. I'll also be headed to England later this month for my very last time to take classes. I can't believe the four years are nearly up. It has been hard, but also a real privilege to be able to study the Bible this intensively, and it has made a big impact on how I do ministry. I'm also headed to Epinal, way up in the northeast part of France, to try to help a church there be more intentional about how they worship. Always feel blessed to be asked to come help. I'd appreciate prayers for that as well

Lastly, just please keep Cheryl and me in your prayers personally, if you would. It's been a tough season, and we don't want to get weary in well doing.

Until next time, or as the French say, A+,

Kev

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