

The Downs

Packed, Moved, and Settled! Merci!



STEADFAST
ROOTS

Well, friends, we have finally made it! On December 31st, we departed from Kansas City International Airport headed to France. We praise God for smooth flights and quick, easy layovers. We had two layovers that were only ninety minutes so we knew it would be tight, but we made both flights with no issues. On our long flight over the Atlantic, the girls slept well which may have helped with a smooth transition once we arrived in France.

Upon arrival in Geneva, Switzerland we were supposed to be met by a hired van to take us to the language center in Albertville, France. With many suitcases in tow (minus three that were held up at our previous layover in Amsterdam) and three travel weary girls, we walked out of baggage claim and couldn't find our driver. Turns out he came and went. But Tim was able to hire a driver who gave us a great price. As our luggage was packed into the van, it looked as though we weren't all going to fit, but we just squeezed in. It was a mercy that those three pieces of luggage didn't make it, because we definitely would not have all fit! The missing luggage was delivered to our door via UPS the next day!

Our first week has been full of getting settled at the language center where Tim and I will be studying (and where our family is living on-campus for the year), registering the two older girls for school, getting cell phones figured out, shopping for groceries and supplies for our house, finding the best baguettes in town (a must), and learning how to navigate the town on bikes and on foot.

In the last month before moving, we have experienced a peace that passes all understanding. While we had moments of stress and feeling like time was getting away from us, the overall feeling we had as we packed up or donated the last of our belongings was peace that God has been, is, and will lead us each step of the way. Even now, in Albertville, with school starting for all of us (except Eleanor, who will be in nursery at the language center) with new and unexpected things happenings daily, we have peace that God has led us to this place and this year of further preparation is for His good and glory. Please pray with us as we study the French language that God will be the one leading us in study and transition. Even though this is another step of training for what God has led us to do full-time, we ask God to continually remind us that we are lights in the darkness regardless of where we live.

Praise God with us for:

1. Smooth flights and transitions.
2. Peace over our family as we moved from the U.S. to France.
3. Luggage arriving at just the right time.
4. New friends at the language center who have welcomed and helped us with open arms.
5. The beauty of God's handiwork that surrounds us in Albertville.





STEADFAST ROOTS

Please be in prayer for:

1. Lucy and Hazel beginning local preschool. This is their first school experience outside of homeschool and their first French immersion experience.
2. Diligence for Tim and Sarah as we study language. Sarah is at the beginner level and Tim will be studying to refine grammar and pronunciation.
3. That we will be a light to those around us in Albertville. Please pray that as we rub shoulders with people around us in daily life, we will pursue opportunities to build relationships and be a testimony of God's love.
4. Tim consulted a physician in the States for a minor complication and was told it may heal itself. He has experienced further complications since arriving in France and the procedure he needs to have will require quite a bit of rest afterward. Please pray with us as we navigate a different healthcare system to get Tim the care he needs for complete healing and recovery.



Tim, Sarah, Lucy, Hazel, & Eleanor