

January 2026



The Phillips in France

As I sit here in my office overlooking the Loire River, I'm thanking God for His blessings in 2025. It was both a difficult year in some ways, but also an blessed year. In 2025, 2 people were baptized. Our group of 11 (not including our family) was sifted a bit, but God left us with 5 faithful people who are committed to becoming disciples of Christ and who want to see their city reached. God blessed us with a place to meet, which has really worked perfectly for our group. After years of praying and hoping for help on the field, God blessed by sending our daughter Kylie to work with us and has supplied every need she has. We also were able to share the gospel on multiple occasions: not with people we'll never meet again, but with friends and neighbors to whom we'll continue to share and minister. We were also blessed towards the end of the year with several visitors for our Sunday worship services.

We had some heartache too. From that group of 11 I mentioned, we were "ghosted" by 2 of the men and thereby their wives as well. One of the ladies who had been with us from the start secretly got married without telling anyone, and then moved out of town just as suddenly. A couple of the people we'd been witnessing to made the decision that they didn't want to talk about the gospel anymore. Another family we had been trying to make friends with and minister to put very clear distance between us. It was tempting several times to get discouraged. However, I tried to look at it as God's pruning so that what was left was stronger. I believe that's exactly what He's done.

As for January, we have a new addition...though not what you might think. Raphael and Leila had their first child. Her name is Esmée (Ess-may). We've been waiting a long time to meet her and we're all rejoicing with them. We also have 4 first time visitors in January. Interestingly, all of them were college students. Pray that we'll be able to reach them. Also, out of the blue, that family I mentioned earlier who had distanced themselves invited us over for dinner. They opened up to us more that night than they had in all the time we'd known them. Pray for God to continue working in that relationship.

I only have space for two more lines. Therefore, I'll use them to say a well established fact: God is good all the time, and all the time God is good.



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