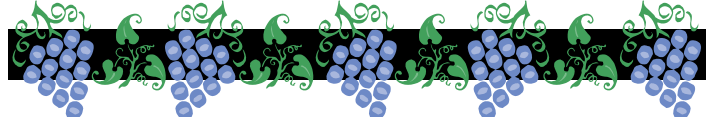


Tony and Kathy PEPE

Ministering in the "Heartland of France"



**Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them:
because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world
I John 4:4**

October, 2011

Dear Friends,

As Kathy and I returned to France, this verse has been in our hearts and minds as we face the challenges and blessings of another year of ministry here in Bar-Sur-Seine. There have been times that we have felt that the Enemy has had the victory, but we have the certainty that our God is greater and with that certainty comes courage, strength, and hope!!

We want to begin by thanking you for your prayers during our travels during the summer. The Lord truly blessed us as we traveled literally thousands of miles. God kept us safe and watched over us from N Carolina to MI, then to Alaska, Washington, then back to MI and Kentucky and IN. Not once during those many miles did we have car trouble or even a flat tire! The time with our children was precious and we are thankful for the many memories that were made during our weeks of travel. We are once again amazed at how the Lord made it possible for us to help each of our three children during their moves and transitions. Thank you for your part in allowing that to happen. We are so very grateful.

We were really encouraged upon our return to France to see how the church family here in Bar-Sur-Seine had really stepped up and helped the church to continue functioning in our absence: teaching the children, preparing the music for the services, preaching from time to time, taking care of the offerings, greeting guests, showing hospitality to guest speakers, cleaning the church etc. These are all things that they had done in the past, without carrying the full responsibility. It was good to see them taking responsibility of these areas. This has built a new sense of unity among the church family and that is a wonderful thing and a blessing we do not take lightly.

We have begun and are beginning the ministries that did stop during the summer months as well as continuing the regular activities such as Sunday service and prayer meeting. I have started back up an individual discipleship course with one young man. Kathy has four ladies planning to attend the ladies' bible study. The men are interested in beginning a men's prayer group which I feel is so important to see the ministry advance and grow. The challenge is finding a time that all of the men are able to come. We are also making plans for special outreach activities.

Our folks spoke of visitors that came to the services during our absence and there have been a few since our return. One was our neighbor, Anne, who we have been witnessing to and inviting to church for the past eight years. Anne has a problem with alcohol and of course needs the regenerating power of Christ in her life. There is a battle going on and our prayer is that she will choose God. Another lady, Marie-Hélène, knows the Lord and is going through a very difficult divorce situation. Our prayer is that she will not become bitter and that she will seek to have fellowship and encouragement that can be found in the Body of Christ.

We can think of three Christian families in our vicinity that for one reason or another have chosen to isolate themselves from other believers. It is very difficult for us to understand. However, we all know that being a part of a local church bring with it fellowship and encouragement, but also accountability and encouragement to serve. Please pray with us for these families that the Holy Spirit would convict them of their need to be part of a local church.

Thank you for your continued encouragement, prayers, and support. It is really a humbling thing when we recognize the sacrifices of so many that allow us to minister in this spiritually needy land.

There have been requests for our children's updated addresses, so I will close by sending you those. Enclosed in the hard copy prayer letters will be our latest prayer card. This will most certainly be our last one with our children. Though they are no longer ministering with us here in France, we wanted to have them in the picture this one last time.

Your partners in ministry,

Tony

Tony and Kathy Pepe

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