



## November 2018 Recap

**School year 2017/2018** - Last year finished well even though attendance at many of the events slowly decreased towards the end. The spring weekend retreat went really well with a number of non-Christian students joining us. The weather held off and we were all able to hike up to a mountain lake that still had small "ice-bergs" floating in it. A Muslim student who had been coming to EVERY event at the FEU, was there and continued to show sincere interest in the things shared from God's Word. Recently, we heard that he gave his life to Christ. Give thanks to God and pray this student as this decision will drastically affect every area of his life (family, friends, culture, etc.).

**Summer** - We traveled to Pennsylvania from mid-June to mid-July, much earlier than previous summers. It was a nice time spent with family and a few friends. Rusty especially enjoyed playing with his cousins and reconnecting with both sets of grandparents. We visited a few local churches and shared some of the great things God has been doing here in France. The month flew by and, before we knew it, we were back in Grenoble. Since most of the 70,000 students were away for the summer and many French families were on vacation, the city was oddly quiet. Things got a little crazy when the Tour de France passed through the center of the city. Rusty must have been inspired because shortly

thereafter he learned how to ride his strider bike! We were able to get away for a few camping trips in between work projects around the FEU to get everything ready for the new year. Give thanks for our time of rest and the safe and problem-free travels.

**FEU de Grenoble (Saint Martin D'Hères)** - Before things started, we took the student leaders (Sherpa) up into the mountains for a training weekend. It's a smaller group of Sherpa this year but they are fully committed to the work that needs to be done. We jumped right back into things in early September with Freshers' Week. The week was full of outreach events (volleyball, frisbee, a BBQ & hikes) to meet and get to know as many students as possible. The next week, we started the French dinner & Bible study. We took a break from Romans a few weeks ago for a short apologetics series for students to invite their non-Christian friends to. The Chinese Bible study (also on Wednesdays) is being led by a young guy ("Jeff") who became a Christian and was baptized last year. Pray for the Sherpa (and Jeff) as well as all the new students we made connections with. Also pray for the discussions that follow the Bible studies as we wrestle with how God's Word impacts our lives.

**FEU de Grenoble (Presqu'île)** - As the universities continue to expand on the other side of the city, so does the FEU. A family from our team and a number of Sherpa from years past are heading it up. Just like last year, it's a small group but very encouraging to see growth! They have regular dinners on Sunday nights and small Bible studies over lunches during the week when the majority of participating students can get together. They join the larger FEU for hikes, outings and retreats. Pray for persistence and encouragement of the leaders of this new work.

**Food Distribution** - We started off the semester with 70-80 students coming regularly, but by late November we've had as many as 130 students come! We have close to 250 contacts (from nearly 45 countries) who are invited to each distribution as well as other events geared to integrate them into the life of the FEU. It's difficult for international students to find their way in a new place so we are very happy to welcome them and share God's love with them in very practical ways. Give thanks for this opportunity and pray that these students would come to other FEU events.

**English Thursday** – English Thursdays started out in October with about 15-20 students coming on average. Our big Thanksgiving dinner drew a

crowd though – we had to cut off attendance at 70 people! We have a great team of native English speakers including a South African pastor of a local international church and a guy from Rhode Island who is living with us at the FEU this year. Give thanks for the English-speaking volunteers who help out.

**Upcoming Events** – Our Christmas outreach event will be held on December 13<sup>th</sup> at a local church. Other groups will also be using the FEU in December for various Christmas parties. In January, we'll have a “Sherpa Reboot” retreat here to get the next semester off to a good start.

**Work Projects** - The fence (to keep people from falling off a short wall) is about halfway done and I hope to finish it soon. I'm still going to a local camp (Champfleuri) to help with work projects there. Right now we're installing a spiral staircase between two floors in the staff area for practical and safety purposes. Pray for energy and time to get everything done.

**Family** - Rusty is rapidly increasing his vocabulary (mostly English with a little French in the mix). He loves thinking of puns and telling stories of fun things from this past summer. He also enjoys creatively building things with Duplo. Rachel is doing well with the pregnancy and we've enjoyed seeing a few ultra-sounds of the new little one that God is weaving together as we speak. The due date is right around Christmas and Rachel's parents will be coming to help with everything during that time. Give thanks (and pray) for continued health for Rachel and the new baby.

Again, thank you for your continued prayer for us and this ministry (and people) we are privileged to work with.

In His love,

David, Rachel, Rusty & baby #2