

TOULOUSE NEWS

December 14, 2021

TAKING TIME OFF

Thanks so much for all your prayers on my behalf. They have sustained me over the past four weeks. I would not have made it without them. As you might imagine, I am very tired. I will be taking the rest of December and the beginning part of January to rest, reflect, and prepare for the transition from Toulouse to the Blessing. Thanks so much for understanding my need for some down time. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

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The logo for Avant ministries, featuring the word "Avant" in a stylized, cursive red font.

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WHIRLWIND OF ACTIVITY

Who thought that trying to wrap up 24 years in France in less than a month was a good idea? It has been a whirlwind of activity since I arrived on November 17th. Having said that, I have seen God's fingerprints all over my time in Toulouse.

Tomorrow morning, I board a plane that will not only take me back to the US but will be the beginning of a new chapter in my life and ministry. As I look back at the past four weeks, I am in awe of the way that God took care of every single detail. I am so thankful that I have a Good Shepherd that leads me.

HIGHLIGHTS AND BLESSINGS

One of the biggest highlights for me was being able to spend time in person with the four ladies from my weekly Skype Bible study. Whether it was cooking and hosting a Thanksgiving dinner at Annaëlle's, sharing a meal at Rachida's, one or more of them popping by for a visit, or simply sharing insights from God's Word, I smile just thinking about them and the memories that we made. I am especially thankful that I was able to connect them and their significant others to the church family.

Speaking of church family, it was a wonderful blessing to be able to see each other in person after nearly 18 months apart. I shed more than a few tears as we said farewell on Sunday with a fellowship time after our service. I was especially touched by the beautiful gift that they gave me as a visible reminder of our connection to each other.

It was also a special blessing to be able to reconnect and spend time with friends that I have known for more than half of my 24 years in France. There were some incredible conversations. I especially appreciated Joëlle's help as I closed out various accounts.

Finally, I can't say enough about my incredible co-workers. They helped with packing, moving stuff, making the hard things as easy as possible, as well as understanding the joys and challenges of this transition. God definitely has blessed me abundantly through them!!

Three of the four ladies from the Skype Bible Study L to R : Rachida, me, Annaëlle, and Stéphanie

