



# Steve and Rowena Barnes

## Greetings from Fréjus, France !

September 21, 2024

**A brief report of our heavy month of September** for you who carry us to **the Throne of Grace**.

- Having the **house full** for 48 hours with a happy family whose children are discovering missions.
- Driving up to Paris the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend to participate at the **church in St Denis** going through troubled waters. The same weekend here at the **Baptist Church of Fréjus**, one brother led the service, another preached, and the fellowship dinner happened without us. The **Ukrainian refugee work** is growing and they show appreciation for the use of our facilities.
- Ridding the yard of lots of clutter before **the big Franco-American party on the 14<sup>th</sup>** was a wish come true! House improvements and repairs, however, stopped completely this month; too much was happening. Hopefully they will resume soon so we can have heat this fall!
- Putting logistics in place for a **work team of 9** was difficult. But God was gracious— our dermatologist neighbor (her teen daughter **Io** attends church since December) kept one couple. A new family at church offered to host 3 on the team; and we kept 2 couples in our home. We were at a loss to properly prepare for work projects for 9 people. I was challenged feeding 11 people for 9 days. Steve didn't stop running. Several French families invited the team for meals or provided transportation or food. Our church was "blown away" by their gracious and spiritual desires.
- In **SIX WORK DAYS**, this team of professional and zealous workers gave the Fréjus church a large



platform,  
protected sound  
area, lowered  
ceilings, new  
lighting, fresh  
paint, sewed  
curtains, a child-  
friendly  
classroom/all-



purpose room, cupboards on walls liberating floor space, and even laminated children's visualized songs. The 2<sup>nd</sup> entrance that was completely unusable is now a clean and open area with foosball and place for the coffee bar.

- I had earlier invited 20 families for the **party for neighbors from 3-5 pm on the 14<sup>th</sup>**. We had no idea what would happen. The corn-hole game built for the occasion was a big hit and neighbors saw the gate open and people playing. A French Christian couple brought their sound system. My accordion was an "ice-breaker". We were 53 people including members of 11 neighboring families (5 had other obligations), French Christians and the team from Emmanuel Baptist Church in Toledo OHIO. Each team member had an individual part in the program. A French lady sang a Christian song of testimony. Steve is an excellent translator and emcee and knew how to intertwine fun facts of French/American history and include testimony of God's working. I was oblivious to the continuous serving of homemade American goodies and the gift bags that went to all the children and teens...I was doing what I love...welcoming people. Ignoring the unfinished



home repairs, some gladly came into our house which “de-mystified” what a pastor’s home looks like! I was on a “high” when the last guests



left...at 7h45 pm. Pray for souls to go further on their journey of finding the Savior! Six Gideon New Testaments found homes that day! Now for follow-up. Pray.

**Looking ahead....** I will head up **to Rachel’s home in Switzerland** as mom and grandma. She fractured her fibula and is off her feet for 6 weeks. We will celebrate our mutual birthdays on **the 23<sup>rd</sup>**! Steve and I participate in the wedding of a couple on **the 28<sup>th</sup>** (Tamil Indian/ Russian German with English as their common language) in Paris, returning to Fréjus on **the 30<sup>th</sup>**. I was asked to put in place a ladies’ meeting for the French pastors’ conference **Oct 23-24** in the Paris area (pray for appropriate activities and volunteers for the children). Most of all, praise be to God—we have **new faces and needs to follow up in Fréjus**. The apostle Paul said: *“My grace is made perfect in weakness”* 2 Cor 12. We feel this every day. Our hearts never stop hurting: **Ryan, our son-in-law**, is still in prison in Kabul.

Thank you for coming along side. *Rowena (and Steve) Barnes*

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