

Philip and Rosemary Halliday

Prayer Letter

July 2022



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Rather uniquely for us, we are sending you this Prayer Letter from *your* side of the Channel! After an online Home Assignment in 2020 and an autumn Home Assignment in 2021, we have been able to return to our normal June/July pattern. More of that later.

French Baptist Congress

After the 'Covid years', it was great to be able to gather around 400 delegates from all over France for our annual three-day Congress. It is always held over the Ascension Weekend (in May), with the venue changing each year. It is a time for hearing reports and voting budgets, of course, but also for worshiping and praying, for reflecting and dreaming, and for catching up with friends, old and new.

As you might remember from our previous letter, we – as a 'Home Mission' team – had the joy of celebrating the progress of one of our church-plants, in Ploërmel (in Brittany), and of introducing the leader of our newest church-plant, among Iranian and Afghan refugees in Strasbourg.

Mohammad's story in France began with him living rough, on the streets of Marseilles. Our Baptist church there welcomed and befriended him, helping him to get his residency papers, to start learning French, and generally to cope with his new environment.

Mohammad's testimony at the Congress last month was a great encouragement to all.



French Baptists' Big Conversation

The recent French Baptist Congress also provided us with an opportunity to celebrate our 100th anniversary. In fact, Baptist beginnings in France date back much further, to the early 1800s, but it was not until a century later that the movement began to put structures in place, including the French Baptist Federation.

We used our centenary Congress to open a 'Big Conversation' with all of the delegates, through which we are aiming to discern and give shape to the future direction that the Baptist Federation should go in. We focused on three main areas: pastoral training, youth ministry, and development.

Philip was responsible for organising the conversation groups, each one of which was 'hosted' by a member of our national executive or of one of our main leadership teams – their job being to *listen*. It was a very positive experience.



Home Assignment

As mentioned above, we have just begun visiting a number of you during our annual five-week Home Assignment in the UK. This year, there are several churches that we are meeting face-to-face for the first time, as we travel from the Shetland Islands to London, and to a range of places in between. It is always enjoyable for us to catch up on everyone's news, as well as to share about what God is doing in France.



Family News

It was lovely to have our UK daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter (Phoebe) visit us in France 'en route' to their holiday further south. It was a trip that they had originally booked before Covid and before having a baby! Nevertheless, they survived the long journey with a ten-month-old and we were glad for the opportunity to see them. They were able to join us at the church-plant for a Sunday service, where Phoebe enjoyed playing a percussion egg during the worship.

Prayer Points

- Give thanks for the opportunity there was for everyone to meet up again at the recent French Baptist Congress and for all that was shared there.
- Join the French Baptists in giving thanks for God's faithfulness over the past century and as they pray for discernment about the future.
- Pray for safe travel for us and for positive encounters during our present Home Assignment in the UK.

With our warm good wishes and our thanks for your ongoing support,

Philip & Rosemary.



If you would like to support Philip and Rosemary Halliday by prayer and committed regular giving, visit bmsworldmission.org/partners or call 01235 517700 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet.



PO Box 49 129 Broadway Didcot Oxfordshire OX11 8XA Tel: 01235 517700
mail@bmsworldmission.org bmsworldmission.org

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