

Discipleship

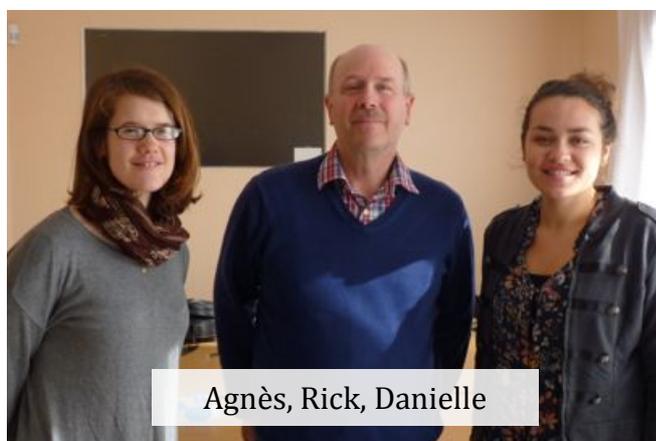
And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. - 2 Timothy 2:2

One of the most basic principles of the ministry of Agapé is making disciples. This takes many forms in our life and work, but the basic idea is building into peoples' lives in order to see them grow to maturity and be better equipped for life and ministry and (hopefully) multiply themselves. We've been on the receiving end as well as investing in other's lives ourselves.



Rick & Myles

Myles has been a friend nearly 30 years and I saw him just a few weeks ago at a conference.



Agnès, Rick, Danielle

His teaching and challenges in the area of stewardship and giving have been a big influence in our lives. He played a major role in my becoming involved in training our staff in personal fund raising. In April I was privileged to give this training to **Agnès and Danielle**, two enthusiastic incoming staff and am currently coaching 2 staff as they work on support. Our experience here in France is that good training and coaching really make a difference in seeing our staff find all the partners they need.

Cherline has been with our ministry for a couple of years and has recently taken responsibility for our newly-formed legal department. Interestingly, Cherline is coaching Agnès as she develops her support. As part of Cherline's training, Janette has been working through the character development study series *Changes that Heal*. Janette is enjoying doing this series as she herself went through it with her mentor Jackie several years ago. She also enjoys studying several books with other staff women via skype meetings.



Janette & Cherline

Vive la différence ! Recently we were able to pass on what we'd learned and experienced by developing a new couples' seminar. So many couples see their differences as the enemy of their compatibility. We've learned it's really important to encourage couples not only to accept each other's differences but to learn to appreciate them and even turn them to their advantage. We had a first 'trial run' of *Vive la différence* in April. It was extremely well received by the participants, over ½ of whom had already attended our other seminar. Here are a couple of comments : *"A very enriching training – I got to know my spouse better."* *"This conference was very beneficial ++++ Thank you again. You should hold it again soon !"* The seminar went so well we've scheduled another one for November.

Family News

In April Paul ran the Paris marathon (along with 57,000 others), finishing the race in 4 hours 14 minutes – a good time for his first full marathon. It was a tough race though. Paul had trained through the winter, and on the day the temperature went up to 20°C/70°F, which was much hotter than he was used to on a long run. Needless to say we are VERY proud of him. He isn't ready to sign up for another marathon next week, but would like to run in another major city marathon, like London, Berlin or perhaps New York.



Paul & Julienne : 10th June, 2017

The evening before our April couples' seminar, we were calmly having dinner with Jean-Paul and Françoise who had come to speak. Unexpectedly, the doorbell rang. *Whoever would be at the door at 9.00 on a Friday night?* It was Paul and Julienne. I knew something was up – they don't usually just show up unannounced. You guessed it. The above date is their wedding date ! They wanted to tell us the news face-to-face. Needless to say we're thrilled ! The ceremony will take place at

Julienne's home parish here in the Paris suburbs. They've already decided on a venue for the reception – a country hotel we used to use for our couples' weekends not too far from us.

As we come to the end of the school year, we're looking forward to a slower pace. We've continued with country dancing. Since it's right in our village, we've enjoyed getting to know a few new people and one of them came to church once. Also we still occasionally look after guide dogs in training. We recently had Joddy, a black lab who was a big hit with the other staff at the office !

For Prayer

- * For the impact of a special New Testament with testimonies of sports figures produced for the Euro 2016 football championships.
- * For Paul and Julienne as they prepare to get married next year.
- * For our 2 couples' seminars planned in September and November
- * That we would find partner churches for 2 seminars during the first half of 2017.

Rick & Janette