

J U L Y 2 0 2 0

# TEAM MONTPELLIER

Reaching the nations with the hope of the Gospel  
*pastoring the International Chapel of Montpellier, France*

## *Ministry in a time of Covid-19*

When we last wrote in March, the Coronavirus had just arrived in our city with only a few cases present and we were planning to host a church outreach activity at our home. A lot has changed since then as the virus has spread, cases have multiplied, and a national lockdown was imposed. Thankfully, on May 11th, France began the slow process of “reopening” after weeks of strict national quarantine. Through it all, what we have noticed is that while much of France came to an abrupt halt, our ministry here at the Chapel and to those people surrounding us has increased as individuals have struggled with isolation; loss of mobility; loss of funds; and unfortunately the loss of their loved ones’ lives. During these unstable days, people were and are searching for the Hope & the Peace that can only be ultimately found in Christ. It has been to Him that we have pointed people as John has weekly delivered his sermons online; Robyn wrote ladies bible studies specifically with the virus in mind, as well as, many hours of one-on-one counsel from us both. Here are some more specific examples that we praise God for:



- ❖ Our weekly Sunday church services on Zoom, as well as the Ladies Bible Studies, have been an encouragement for many who were worried and anxious over these troubling times with COVID and often feeling lonely and isolated due to the lockdown. For the past few weeks, we have had one new American lady decide to join in on our meetings. She had been going through some health scares and sought out our counsel & prayers. God in His mercy showed His hand of healing and now she has purchased her own Bible and is beginning to read it on her own. Please pray for her relationship with the Lord that she would desire to ask the Lord to be her Savior and walk with Him.
- ❖ We have been encouraged to hear that several of our people have been faithfully reading their Bibles. We pray that this will continue and that they will continue to grow in their faith!

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Pastor John & Robyn Coules  
Serving with World In Need International  
johnncoules@gmail.com  
To assist us in our ministry please visit our website:  
www.thecoulesministry.com



With the national quarantine having been strictly in place, life here in France seemed to bring to the surface several deep and complex issues that needed to be addressed and for which we continue to ask for God's wisdom as we counsel and help others navigate through to make God-honoring choices:

- ▶ Unwanted pregnancies. In France, abortion is a common & a somewhat normal occurrence where people hardly think twice about having one performed. Counseling young couples in regards to choosing life for their unborn child has been an issue that has arisen in recent days.
- ▶ Hard, hard marital issues. Pray with us for one young lady at the church who will be going through a divorce in the months to come. She is a believer, who John baptized back in 2014. Her husband is not a believer & has been unfaithful in their marriage. They have a young child and the wife is currently looking for a job.

## For Prayer

- ❖ Please pray for us as we are currently walking alongside a woman who is dying from complications from melanoma. She knows the Lord, but her boyfriend does not. May God give us the right words to bring encouragement & peace to her & we pray that God would draw this man into a relationship with Him through it all. Her testimony has been such an encouragement and has taught us So much.
- ❖ Pray with us concerning the young mother we mentioned above who is currently in the process of walking through a divorce. She is seeking a job, has a child, and is living in a nation that is not her home country. We pray for God's mercy and provision.
- ❖ We are waiting to hear from the Préfecture (city hall) concerning the renewal of Robyn's French Residency card. John received his card at the end of May. Understandably, there is a major backlog with documentation processing & even though Robyn's card has now expired, the government is giving extensions and leniency while her file is being processed.
- ❖ Since we have not had regular church services since March, we have not had regular offerings to provide for the church rent & ministry expenses. We would appreciate your prayers for the financial health of our church.

Visit our newly updated personal ministry website:

[www.thecoulesministry.com](http://www.thecoulesministry.com)

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