

FRANCE

THE ABINA FAMILY SERVING IN GRENOBLE, FRANCE



avril+2025

EASTER NEWS.

God is on the move in our city and we're excited to share what God did here on Easter and in the weeks leading up to a very special weekend.

L'église du Refuge - Grenoble

Learning more about

COFFEE & PRAYER

Pilgrim Coffee House



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP

Everything within this document is possible because of the grace of God and the generosity of His Church.

AGWM
AGENCY OF GOD'S WORLD MISSIONS



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Easter Sunday



WATCH & DOWNLOAD

Ministry Update Video (1min)



Vanessa Abina
Missionary to France

Bon- jour!

Bonjour à tous (Hello everyone),

Bienvenue to our family update! Our family has had a beautiful few months since speaking with you in our last newsletter. June, Jadwin, and Joss are growing in many ways. June and Jadwin were moved from their French learning class at school, called FLS, into the normal French class because their teacher saw such improvement. We couldn't be prouder of their effort in school. Joss has adapted wonderfully in her second year at her all-French primary school. She is even helping her class learn English.

Jordan and I have heard the Lord speaking, both words that are new and repeating ones he has said in the past. We are reminded to let him lead and that everything we want to accomplish will be through a life of prayer. We also have heard him say "sharp," meaning he wants us to sharpen ourselves with the word of God and, in turn, sharpen others.

Our home is truly our sanctuary. We have created a space where we can come back after a long day and find rest. It is the place where we sit across from our kids at the dinner table and laugh over would-you-rather questions. Our kids express their feelings in

a safe environment and learn lessons from our experiences (even though they forget at times that we were teenagers once too). After dinner, we all grab our books and sit on our bed and read to unwind from our day. It is a place where we can laugh, cry, celebrate, argue, pray, and live. I am most grateful for this.

As far as our ministry moments, well, you will need to read on. We have some stories to share that remind me of Proverbs 16:9, "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps." Each person in our life here in Grenoble has touched our hearts deeply. Some stories are tough and others are transformative, but they are all valuable.

Thank you for reading this and for loving us. May the Lord keep you and bless you tremendously.

Vanessa

Everything revolves around prayer.



ABINA FAMILY

Thank you for praying over our family. Jordan, Vanessa, June, Jadwin, and Joss.



SALVATIONS

Please pray for people to give their lives to Jesus and for the filling of the Holy Spirit.



LE REFUGE

Refuge needs a bigger building to meet in. Please pray for the Lord's leadership and favor.



CONNECTIONS

We meet people from around the world; continue to pray for favor in our community.



OPEN DOORS

We've been given the opportunity to expand Pilgrim into the facility next door! Praise the Lord.



UNBELIEVERS

We get to be the hands and feet of Jesus everyday, please pray for the hearts of people who don't know Jesus.



Building trust.

When Pilgrim Coffee House first opened, only two people came. One stopped in because his office was next door and he had nothing better to do. The other—like most who find us—walked by and wandered in.

That man, who I'll call Seb, is a kind, thoughtful Frenchman in his late thirties. He's married, has no kids, and grew up with no spiritual background. His family faced its share of pain, and he lost his father at 18—something he recently admitted he never fully processed. But he kept coming back to Pilgrim. Something about the space, the warmth, the conversations—it drew him in.

Seb began showing up every day we were open. Over time, we built a friendship that

extended beyond the coffee shop. Our conversations deepened, and I was able to share about my faith. Seb opened up too—about his past, his questions, and his hopes. Every month during our 24 hours of prayer, I'd ask if I could pray for him. He always gave a request for his wife—never for himself. But I prayed for him anyway.

Two weeks ago, something shifted. A movie triggered memories of his father's death, and all the grief he'd buried came flooding back. He disappeared for a week. When he finally reached out, he shared how he'd spent days crying. After a lunch with his wife, he took a walk through the hills of Grenoble. That walk led him into a small, empty church.

There, sitting alone in the quiet, dusty pews, he found himself staring at a crucifix. Jesus on the cross. He told me he knew of God—or gods—and had heard of Mary, but didn't really know anything about Jesus. Then, something happened. He felt something physically

Someone was there. He knew he was alone—yet not alone.

"I think I'm supposed to do something," he said.

I smiled and said, "I agree." I told him, if Jesus is reaching out to you, maybe it's time to find out who He really is.

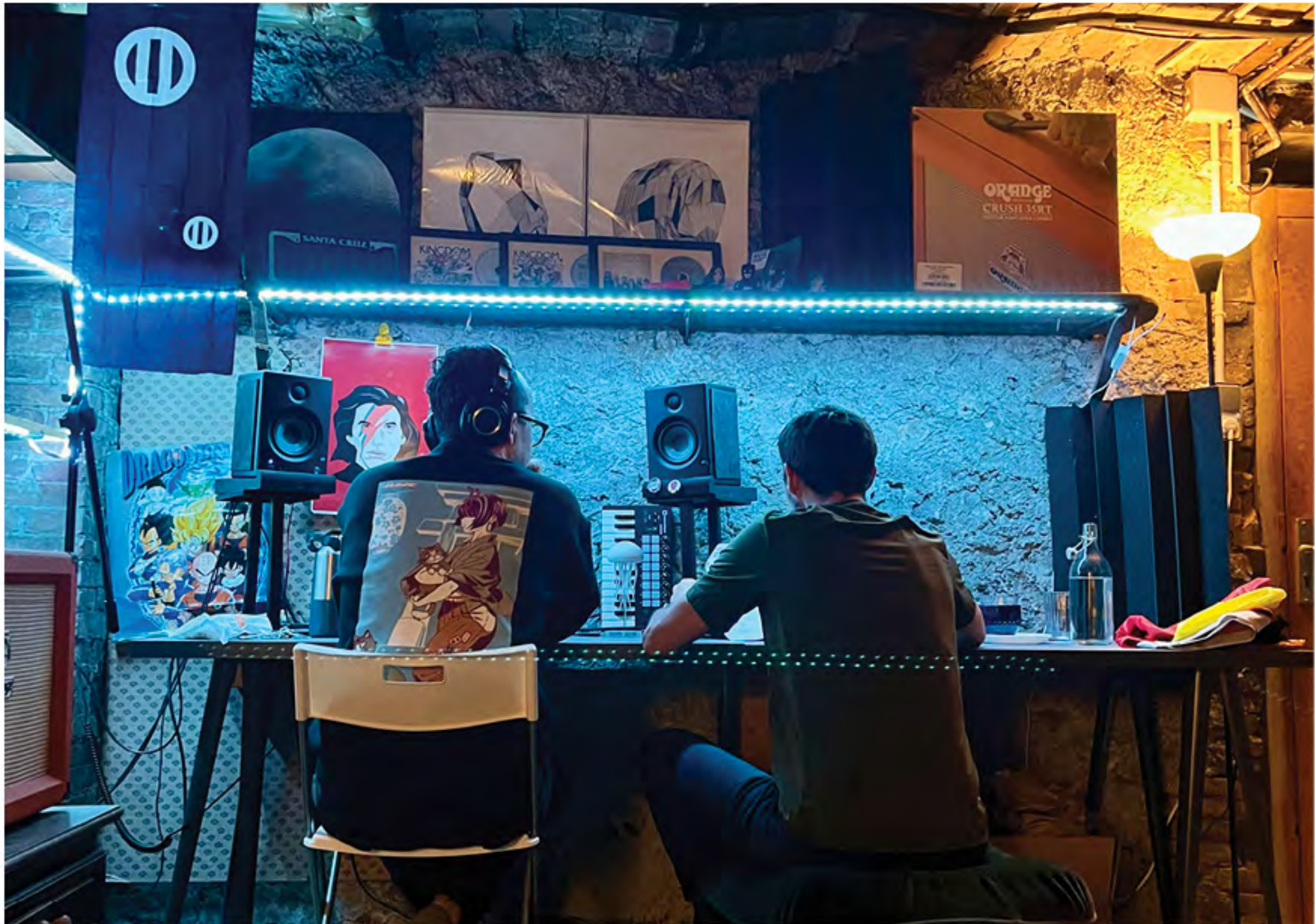
Seb and I have just started reading the Gospel of John together. As always, we're praying that Jesus would do what only He can.

We've learned this: when we stay present and available in the lives of the people God places around us, He does the work of salvation.

You are a part of this story. Your support makes it possible.

Please, keep praying for Seb.

People matter to Jesus.





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Ministry opportunities can't always be predicted, but they can always be pursued.

Sometimes being the hands and feet of Jesus looks like making coffee in a friend's bakery—because he's overwhelmed, understaffed, and needs someone to show up.

Ministry opportunities can't always be predicted, but they can always be pursued. And more than that—they can be prepared for.

Our times of prayer with Jesus have sharpened our vision and softened our hearts. They've taught us to recognize the quiet, ordinary spaces where He's already at work—in people, in places, in moments we might otherwise overlook.

So we keep showing up. With coffee. With presence. With prayer.

Because wherever Jesus is moving, we want to be there too.

More than omnipresent.

One verse has anchored us since making Grenoble our home and launching Pilgrim Coffee House: Psalm 16:11 – “You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

Pilgrims are people on a journey. And to keep going, we need to know the path and follow it. This verse spoke deeply to what God was already stirring in our hearts. But more than guidance, we longed for joy—for ourselves and for everyone who walks through our doors.

So we’ve been praying: Lord, we know Your presence is everywhere, but we ask for Your manifest presence—here and now.

And we’ve seen the fruit. People often say there’s something different about Pilgrim—the vibe, the atmosphere, the peace. It’s not us. It’s what happens when the presence of the Lord fills a space.

We’re grateful to walk this path—and to invite others along the way.





Become a Pilgrim partner.

Our monthly rent is €750, plus insurance, utilities, and supplies to keep the café stocked and clean. Including these ongoing costs and some initial start-up expenses, our total need over the next three years is €40,000.

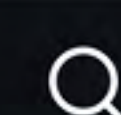
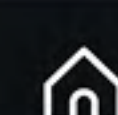
We've also been given the opportunity to expand Pilgrim—an open door we're excited to walk through. This expansion will increase our annual expenses by an additional €5,000, allowing us to serve more people and deepen our impact.

We believe, in faith, that everything needed to establish and grow this prayer café is already being stirred in the hearts of the global Church.

give



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With Jesus, our story isn't over.

There's a narrative out there that says France has moved on from God—that Jesus no longer has a place in this country, in its homes, or in people's lives.

While some evidence may seem to support that idea, we've come to believe two things:
First, that narrative didn't come from Jesus—nor does He approve of it.
Second, there is growing evidence that tells a different story.

The enemy is a deceiver. His tactic is to distract and discourage the Church from the truth. And the truth is this: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5)

Easter reminds us of something powerful—with Jesus, the story isn't over. In fact, it's not finished until He says, "It is finished."

This Easter, 135 people gathered in a small church in Grenoble to worship Jesus—**French believers, seekers**, and people from around the world. They came because they believe there's more to the story. There could only be that type of crowd because the story of the Church in France is far from over. And in this little corner of Grenoble, there was proof.

There's a better narrative to believe and share: "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people." (Acts 2:17)

Let's keep believing for that.



LISTEN - Easter Rehearsal @ Le Refuge

Easter Rehearsal at MDWK - No One

01:56



-03:46

EASTER

20 April 2025



WATCH - Easter Service @ Le Refuge





Gift-dependent. Spirit-empowered. Partners in the mission.

1. Visit prayforfrance.com/give
2. Click the **GIVE** link
3. Type our account number into form box | **Account # 2739191**
4. If making a one-time gift, enter amount and click **GIVE NOW**
5. If making a monthly commitment, enter amount and click **SET-UP NEW RECURRING SCHEDULE**

partner



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READY FOR YOUR FIRST MISSIONS TRIP TO FRANCE?



THERE ARE MULTIPLE WAYS TO SERVE

AUGUST

SUMMERTIME / VBS / FACILITY UPGRADES / CHURCH MINISTRY

SEPTEMBER

CHURCH CARNIVAL & BBQ / OUTREACH WEEKEND / FALL MINISTRY LAUNCH / WEEK OF PRAYER / 24H1 PRAYER

NOVEMBER

CHURCH FALL RETREAT / CHILDRENS MINISTRY PROGRAM

FEBRUARY

PRAYER AND REVIVAL FOCUS / 24H1 PRAYER / WORSHIP / FASTING & PRAYER / SPIRITUAL WARFARE

APRIL

GOOD FRIDAY / EASTER SUNDAY / OUTREACH FOCUS / BAPTISMS / STREET MINISTRY

³⁷ THEN HE SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES,
"THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL, BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW;
³⁸ THEREFORE PRAY EARNESTLY TO THE LORD OF THE
HARVEST TO SEND OUT LABORERS INTO HIS HARVEST."

MATTHEW 38-9:37

READY TO SET UP YOUR TRIP?

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