



Bournagain News October 2026

Dear friends and family,

Here is some news from France! No, we haven't shrivelled up and disappeared in the summer's drought... While New Zealand was experiencing some of the worst winter conditions ever, in France we had the earliest heatwave on record, with May temperatures 10-15° higher than average. Nationally, nearly 100,000 hectares of forest and agricultural land were burned, with 37,000 ha in the New Aquitaine area alone. Météo-France describes the national soil-moisture indicator as record-low for September. Around Nantes, trees and shrubs have died, and several fires affected camping grounds and a couple of apartment blocks, but overall, we got off pretty lightly.

Trip to Aotearoa

Way back in March, I was in New Zealand visiting family, friends and supporting churches in Auckland, Hamilton, Te Kuiti, Lower Hutt and Richmond. Speaking at the A/G church in my birthplace (Te Kuiti) for the first time was a real highlight! In most places, I gave an update on what God has been doing in our corner of France, and shared what He has put on my heart for this season: the importance of us spending time with our Father in the Secret Place. Another highlight was a little road trip from Wellington up to Hamilton via Palmerston North, Otaki and New Plymouth, catching up with old and new friends.



Special Visitor



When I flew back to France, I was blessed to have the company of my friend Helen, who came to experience life at Les Alouettes for three weeks. We've known each other for 38 years! It was really special for me to have her here as a bridge between my two worlds. She doesn't speak French, but she was very touched to discover during our community prayer times that, although she didn't understand the words, she generally understood what was being prayed anyway!

New Arrival

The most important event of the year to date was the arrival of Caleb Simon Yann Bourdin, Elise and Théo's first child and the first grandchild on both sides of the family. At 4.3 kg, he had a good start in life and continues to be a hale and hearty lad. Now four months old, he is full of smiles and particularly enjoys being sung to, which is no surprise. I am very blessed to see him every week.



There Are No Words



On May 21st, the same day Caleb was born, I experienced another sort of 'birth' – I finally finished the novel I began writing over two years ago. It's partly autobiographical, and I have given it the above title because that was the most helpful thing anyone said to me after Simon died. It's a comforting and uplifting story, I hope, which speaks to some of the faulty theology in the Western Church around suffering. The manuscript is currently being typeset, and the book will be published on November 24. You can join the waitlist for more updates about the release [here](#). Or visit heatherbourn.com for more info.

The South Pacific Aunties

Maria and Laura flew over to meet their new nephew and spend three weeks with us in August. We had a weekend away in Angers (an hour from here) where we attended Elise's first concert since the birth, visited the Tapestry of the Apocalypse and celebrated Isaac's graduation over lunch at a very nice restaurant. It was the first time in two years that the five of us were all together. Cyril was sorely missed, but I am grateful for so much precious family time, and by the time the new aunties flew out again, my mama's heart was full.



A Fully Fledged Engineer

After seven long years of study, a semester in Cameroon, an internship in Auckland and another in Laval, France, Isaac now holds a master's degree in engineering. We are very proud of him! He gave a speech at the end of the academic year entitled: 'What is an engineer?' Taking a look back over his academic career, he described how his views on the question had evolved, picking up on the importance of emotional intelligence and keeping people at the centre of any engineering issue. He is currently looking for his first 'real' job.



A Makeover at les Alouettes

We have been blessed by a young carpenter who comes along to the grocery co-op and has put his skills to use building a pergola over the shop's terrace. This is already an asset



for the free fruit and veg distribution and will really come into its own in the wetter months when space inside is limited. It has freed up the driveway in front of the kiosk which was previously used for handing out the free food. This has two advantages: we no longer have to clear a path through queuing 'clients', shopping bags and crates of bananas when we need to drive in or out. And potential buyers visiting the Murrays' house are not overwhelmed by people and produce overflowing onto the lawn! Our carpenter friend has also built a wooden fence around that property for more privacy, and to make it more secure for children.

Healing for Eden Héna

After some discouraging news regarding Eden's brain tumour last year, which had increased by 60% despite a new treatment, we had a time of fasting and prayer for her as a congregation. The following MRI showed that the tumour had shrunk by 30%! We continue to pray that it will disappear completely and that she will be protected from all adverse side effects. She is now eight, and it's tough for her, but she has a very real relationship with Jesus, and obviously draws strength and joy from Him. Here she is leading other children from church. 😊



Beach Baptisms

I'm happy to say the church is experiencing a new lease of life after a year complicated by health issues and absences of various members of the leadership team (including myself!) at different times. Last Sunday we baptised two new believers at a nearby beach, which led to some good conversations with several curious passers-by. We also had the first of regular street evangelism outings, and this month two home groups and a men's group are beginning.



Prayer requests

- *For the right buyers for the third house of the Alouettes community, now back on the market.*
- *For a job for Isaac, now a qualified engineer!*
- *For the community, church, grocery co-op and house of prayer to all function well together at Les Alouettes.*

Many thanks and blessings from France!

Love from Heather