Latest news from Chris and Sara Middleton

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Unexpected Openings

It has been almost a year since I (Chris) heard a Quebecois leader tell me that moments to share our faith would pop up more unexpectedly than not, like a window suddenly opening to let in some fresh air. He said these openings usually wouldn't last long and that we needed to be ready in that moment to share.

Just over a week ago I was clearing out our driveway after another good dumping of snow. I was just about finished when our neighbour's eighteen year old son came over. I assumed he just wanted to say hi as he usually does. It was apparent as he continued to try and talk to me over the roar of the snow blower motor that he wanted to do more than just ask me how I was doing.

He began telling me about someone he is partnered up with in one of his classes at CECEP (educational step between highschool and university). He explained to me that this young woman, over numerous conversations, told him that she was a Christian, that Jesus is the centre of her life and that her decisions and values are shaped by him. He explained to me with a fair amount of animation in his expression and hand gestures that he did not understand this; that he couldn't understand this. He wasn't being judgmental in any way, he honestly could not process the idea that Jesus formed the foundation of her life and decisions. He had no category or personal experience in which to think through or place this information.

In explaining this conundrum he looked at me and in all seriousness asked "*Chris can you explain this to me?*"

Pause. Deep breath. No pressure.

Tired from working outside and obviously not ready for this conversation I tried to get my brain into gear and began to open up this deep subject with him, in French. We unfortunately didn't talk long, but as we talked about the essence of what it means to believe in and follow Jesus I asked him if he wanted to discover more about Jesus by reading through the Bible with me. The conversation didn't exactly abruptly end there, but it was obvious the window closed.

Who could have predicted that I would have this conversation that day and at that time? And who can predict when the window might open again? No one, least of all me. But God knows. We don't know what God is doing in the lives of our neighbours or their son, but we're so grateful for this opportunity and that it was with the son of the neighbours we are closest with.

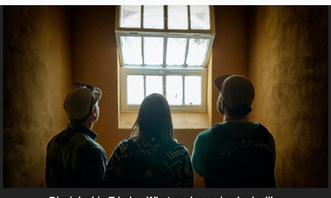
We're praying for this family and that God will continue to work in their midst to call them to himself. We pray that there will be more openings like this in the days to come and that we might have the opportunity to discover Jesus together through his Word.

But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats. Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.
1 Peter 3:14-16

For Prayer

- Pray for the launch of the Discipleship Triads at Eccelsia - we have 7 possibly 9 triades that have started or will start shortly. We pray for the development of disciples walking in obedience with Jesus seeking to help others walk closely with Jesus.
- Pray for for Sara and Chris as we each join/facilitate a triad - for growth as disciples personally, development of others as disciples and for a good learning experience for future triads and Discovery Bible Study groups among non-believers.
- Pray our neighbours M and K as well as their son N. Pray that they would be open to God's work in their lives and to asking and seeking.
- Pray for Jude and Ethan for their growth as disciples of Jesus
- Pray that we will lean on and be directed by the Holy Spirit to recognize these window openings when they come and be ready to share.

Drop us a line and let us know how we can be praying for you!



Discipleship Triads - What each session looks like

LIFE TOGETHER

- 1 thing you are **thankful** for…
- 1 thing you are **concerned or stressed** about
- How did you do with your previous week?**« I will … »**

LEARN TOGETHER

- Read through the passage & summarize it in your own words
- What do you learn about **God** his character and his plan
- What do you learn about **humans** and specifically us?

LIVING IT OUT

- My response to obey – This week **« I will… »** - *make it practical & specific*
- Is there someone I can share this with?
- Is there a need in our group we can respond to?
- Pray for one another

If you want to take part in our movement of prayer in some way join our Facebook group Movement of Prayer QC.

This is the spot where we will be posting all the relevant information and communication for those involved in this movement of prayer with us

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