



## A tale of Two Stories



### Playing in French

Last week while helping one of the men in Chris's Triad (Mathieu), Ethan was asked to tag along. He was willing to come along to get to know Mathieu and Emilie's kids. They are all younger than Ethan, but he was willing to try, which we have to admit was a bit of a surprise. Mathieu and Emilie have four children all under the age of 8. We were surprised when Ethan didn't complain or come to tell us he was bored. He played for 2 hours and admitted he had fun. In French? That's something for Ethan. In our first two years here Ethan was the most resistant to learning French. In fact he looked forward to trips back to Ontario where people only speak English (if only he knew!). The following week-end after this unique moment Mathieu and Emilie's older two children were near our home as their grandparents live across from us. They came over and played in our backyard for quite awhile. While Chris was shovelling dirt he could hear Ethan talking to Eliana and Artur in French - a first for us! We have been blown away by this seemingly tiny development that is monumental for Ethan. These two moments have been answers to prayer. We have been encouraged by Ethan's courage and effort as he steps out of his comfort zone and tries in a language he is gaining confidence in but is not there yet.



### Shovelling Dirt

This past Saturday I (Chris) was moving dirt from our driveway to raised planter boxes that we will use to grow some vegetables. Midway through, our neighbour M returned home and wondered what I was doing. After explaining, M went inside and I went back to work. I was tired and sore and ready to take a break, or quit, when M came over willing to help. I'll admit that that this opportunity to chat has come up like so many others, when I least expected it and was seemingly least prepared. We talked between wheelbarrow loads and though it wasn't necessarily easy we got to the topic of how things were going between he and his wife. You'll remember that we asked you to pray for them and their marriage. He said that things were better and that he was working on himself and trying to be a better husband. In the midst of all of this, we realized that I had a mound of dirt left over and nowhere to put it. M insisted on buying the remainder as he needed it in his backyard. As we were transporting the remainder he admitted that he believed in God, though not practicing faith in any tangible way. He said he was aware that God is at work in his life and situation. I encouraged him to keep persevering and reminded him that we were praying for them.

### Prayer Update

Many of you have been praying for Mark Beach and his wife Theresa. Mark has COVID and is in the ICU on a respirator. Theresa continues to recover from COVID herself and has not been able to be with Mark in the hospital. Below is the latest update. For those of you on Facebook you can get updates directly from the family on their group page - [Mark Beach Updates](#)

May 3 - Daily Update: Two steps forward (yesterday) and... one step back (today) After a CT scan, the medical team discovered an over abundance of air residing outside Mark's lungs and in his abdomen. In light of that revelation, the team placed multiple chest tubes into Mark's sides to relieve the pressure that is building up from the misplaced air.

They also discover a fairly large blood clot inside of his lungs that they said they had to address through different medication. In the end Mark's body is suffering and needs divine intervention.

Pray...

- That God will provide Mark's body with Strength and Heal him.
- Pray that God would remove any and all pain that Mark may be experiencing. That he might experience God's peace.
- Pray for Theresa as she wrestles daily with being apart from Mark and the stress of this situation.
- Pray that Theresa will be able to visit Mark soon.
- Pray for the medical staff attending to Mark in the ICU.

- ### Other Prayer Needs
- For Chris's uncle Dave who is in the hospital in Toronto recovering from lunch transplant surgery.
  - For Chris's sister-in-law Lynn's mom Sue as she awaits the start of cancer treatments. We praise God for a successful hip replacement surgery and good recovery so far.
  - For Marie-Eve, the wife of our friend Francis who is recovering from surgery on her spine. She is due to come home from the hospital today. They expect a long recovery process.
  - For M and K and their marriage. It is good that they are not on the point of crisis right now, but this is a lull in the storm. Pray for more opportunities to share and an openness to Jesus.
  - For our friends Marius and Michelle - their 2 year old son was rushed to the hospital late last week and is still in hospital with a cyst in his abdomen and pancreatitis.



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**Our mailing address is:**  
Chris and Sara Middleton  
70 111e Ave O  
Blainville, QC  
J7C 4Z7

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