



POST SUMMER 2023

For the LORD is good, His mercy is everlasting.
Psalms 100:5

Since the Camp des Cimes was founded, it has been *a refuge in France for God to save the lost and strengthen the found*. What a blessing to watch Him work in lives again this summer!



We started the summer by hosting a week-long orientation for 72 young people serving with Greater Europe Mission's Ten2 program. This program sends summer workers to GEM ministry sites all over Europe. This is the upgraded version of the program I came with when I first came to France. It's always a blessing to be able to invest in these young people and to hear their stories at the end of the summer of how God worked in the lives and the lives of those they served.

This year our Young Adult English Camp had as many Anglophones as it did French, 30 total. These young adults really appreciate being around other believers their age,



sharing experiences, struggles and joys. One young man told us that he did a lot of cool things throughout the year, but that his time at Camp was the best 10 days of his year. He said **his faith is always strengthened by his time here.**



The theme for all our English camps this year was **"Identity."** This is quite a hot topic right now that is politically and socially charged. One young man, who struggled with his sexual identity, said that the Lord spoke to him about this a couple years ago when he was here at Camp, and that now he is trying to live his life based on the truths that God revealed to him.

Each summer we ask campers to write down their questions and place them in a clay pot. During our talks, we attempt to give a biblical response to each question. Here are a few of the questions we addressed this summer.

"What if my identity feels wrong?"

"What if I don't like my identity?"

"How do (or can) we love ourselves?"

"How do we find our identity in a world where people try to tell us who we are?"

Great questions! Thank you for praying for these young people who need to realize how beautifully made and important they are in the eyes of God.



Florent (Flo) lead the Kids' English Camp for the second year, along with a great team of helpers. This camp is always full. It was great to see this team care for the kids, showing them and teaching them the love of God.

Our first family camp was like a family reunion with mostly folks who have been coming here for years, some for 4 generations. What a blessing to see families who are committed to standing firm in their faith and raising their children to do the same.



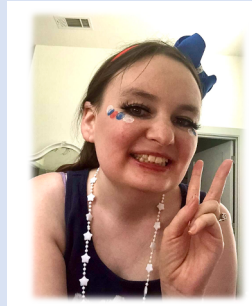
The second family camp was filled with many new families, and specifically single mothers with younger children. It was a blessing to serve these families who have particular needs and struggles. Three of these families have already signed up for winter camps. Thank you for praying for these families as we seek to encourage and support them throughout the year.



This summer, 74 volunteers showed up from May through August to cook, clean, counsel, and serve our camp sessions. We plan to highlight these volunteers in our next update.

FAMILY STUFF

Terah has enjoyed the pool this summer, and the two new kitties that live in her neighborhood. She has been experimenting with having a boyfriend, but so far nothing serious has developed. A big highlight for her was to see **Rhea and Flo** for day when they recently went through Dallas.



They are currently in the States for six weeks visiting friends and family and talking to potential supporters. They are trying to raise support as soon



as possible to join us here at Camp. Thank you for praying for them! If you would like to join their support team, they would love to hear from you. Here is their

contact info. floandrhea@gmail.com Newsletter link: <https://theballins.wixsite.com/updates/post/spring-update-2023>

Giving link: <https://gemission.org/donatemissionary/rhea-guffey/>

Stephanie is now the fitness director at TruFusion. She is thriving there and loving the new position. **Noah** quit his job, which has been a long time coming. He's looking for something that will allow him to work from home so that he can focus on other business endeavors and have a better work / life balance. He's looking forward to doing something that allows him to be more involved with people on a day-to-day basis. They've been involved with Apartment Life Ministry for over a year now, and it's improved for sure. Thanks for praying for them, and feel free to get ahold of them if you're in Denver.



Thank you for your faithfulness, *Tom, Brenda & family*