

# THE ONKENS

## Wet Cement

An extremely common response we hear when we ask students about Christianity is, “I haven’t really thought about it,” or, “I don’t really know anything about it.

This could be discouraging but what we’re seeing is most of **these students are like “wet cement”** and we are the ones getting to leave the first “impression” of Christianity.

Pray we would leave **“beautiful footprints”** in this wet cement like Romans 10: 15 talks about.

## More Things French Students Say

In January we had the privilege of welcoming a **mission trip of Cru students and staff from Minnesota and Nebraska**. Each day they joined us on campus as we initiated spiritual conversations with French students. It was a powerful week and for some of the Americans, the first time they ever shared the gospel.

We know we did this once before but we really wanted to share **some of the amazing things French students say** as we speak with them about Christ.

**“This is the first time I have had a good experience with a religious person.”**

“This was the best conversation I have ever had.”

“Thank you for your prayers, be blessed.”

“This is so beautiful. You explained it very well.”

“You came all the way here to talk to people about religion?”

“We should be very thankful for that message.”

**“I don’t want too get to into Christianity because I’m afraid that I’ll be attacked spiritually.”** The student said this after sharing her story with us about living in South America and having demonic experiences.

Thank you for helping make these conversations happen. Often our first interaction is very positive with students but then they get cold feet. Pray the Lord would move in their lives to take a next step towards him.



Sharing the gospel with French students at the University of Jean Jaures. I’m sitting on the bench in front of the posters. The student said, you should be very thankful for that message after we shared the central message of



Some of the University of Minnesota Cru students/staff who joined us for a week in France.

# Onken Family Prayer Calendar February 2024



Left: Ben turned 4 and even though none of our kids have seen Star Wars, he still wanted a BB-8 cake.



Right: Our old elevator in Paris. We used to fit a stroller, 3 kids and a parent in there!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Pray for Daniel, one of the people we met during the short term mission trip...	...He came to our event during the week but since hasn't been responding. Pray...	...the Lord would reawaken his hunger for Christ.
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Pray our kids would love church and be touched by hearing worship in a different language	Team meeting. Pray we sense the Lord's direction for steps to take this spring	Pray we'd find students who want to learn more about Jesus. Pray we are courageous...	...and compassionate while we're on campus starting spiritual conversations	Team prayer time. We would sense the Lord's guiding during the time	Weekly student gathering. Pray our students see their role in making Christ known on their campuses	Kids have 2 weeks off from school. Pray they have a lot of fun with each other!
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Pray for the pastors and their families of Toulouse to thrive in their relationship with Jesus	Good friends from Paris come to visit. Pray we remember well and laugh together	We have a day set aside for meeting with the Lord. Pray our hearts are encouraged/refreshed	Happy Valentine's Day. Pray our marriage continues to grow and thrive	Pray for our kids to learn French well and have deep friendships at school	Weekly student gathering. We are going through the book of Phillipians	We leave for a week long all French staff conference. Pray for the 50 or so Cru staff in France...
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
...to be refreshed, unified and have renewed vision for why we are all here.	Pray our neighbors would be curious about Jesus and they'd bring up their questions about faith	Again, pray for open hearts as we initiate with students on campus	Pray for Arthur. David meets with him for discipleship and he is a super sharp guy...	...pray he would have a heart to make Christ known on his campus.	Pray for open hearts as we initiate with students on campus	Pray for safe travels as we leave the weekly conference. Our kids have good friends who are at it...
25	26	27	28	29		
...Pray those relationships would greatly deepen	Kids go back to school after 2 weeks off. It will probably be a hard morning for them. Pray we are gentle with them	Pray for our team to continue to grow in unity and love of Christ	Pray for wisdom for us as we start to navigate what is next after this one year stint in France	Leap year! Pray for all the kids who are born on this day and only get a b-day once ever 4 years		