

# THE ONKENS

## So what's next?

The short answer is we are waiting until we are back in the States to figure it out. Our main focus right now is ending well in France. We will for sure be moving back to Orlando and are for sure staying with Cru. After that, we will see what sort of ministry options are available and where the Lord leads.

Since Cru's global headquarters is in Orlando, there are a ton of different options to look into.



Arthur, me and Joel. Two French students I have been meeting with this year. This was our last time together. These guys have been a highlight of the year for me and are also "taking the baton" of ministry and wanting to make Christ known in France.

## Passing the Baton

When we study the ministry of Jesus, it's abundantly clear that he knows **he needs to replace himself**. He only has about 3 years of ministry and so he's continually inviting others to take the baton of ministry.

This is something we are very aware of right now. **We will be moving back to the States mid-July** (which was always the plan) and so are having our own "passing of the baton" moments.

One way this is happening is we are welcoming a group of **16 American Cru staff and students to Toulouse for 4 weeks**. They will be side by side with us on campus sharing the gospel with French college students.

This is really exciting for both of us because it was through summer mission trips just like this one that the Lord really confirmed our callings to France.

Please pray the Lord would raise up the next generation of missionaries to France from this group and thank you for helping us train and equip them!



A group of US Cru students and staff who are currently in Toulouse with us sharing the gospel. You can see me and my three older kids on the left. I was giving a Christian history tour of our city and the kids got to hop in for a history lesson.

# Onken Family Prayer Calendar

## June 2024



Left: Jackson waiting to see the Olympic flame. It passed through Toulouse on it's way to Paris and we all went to watch.



Right: Lexie getting a pony ride by a medieval castle. Put this in the category of things we can't do in Orlando!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1  Lexie has an outing with our church's youth group. Pray she connects with the other students.
2  Pray for the pastors of Toulouse & their families to thrive in their relationship w/ Jesus & each other.	3  Heidi is having lunch with a French woman she met on campus 20 years ago! Pray the friendship grows.	4  I (Dave) am going to Paris for 1 day to lead a Christian history tour of Paris with another mission trip. I used to...	5  ...give this tour when we lived in Paris a few times each year and it was probably my favorite part of ministry in France.	6  City prayer meeting. Pray the time deepens our love of the Lord.	7  Pray for Nathan, Arthur, Joel, Stephanie, Thomas, Anne, Nehemie, Elise and all the other students who have...	8  ...been involved with us this year. Pray they take the initiative to be Christ's ambassadors for the rest of their lives.
9  Lots of hard goodbye's are starting to happen. Pray we say goodbye well.	10  Pray the American trip we are welcoming would be bold and compassionate as we are starting	11  spiritual conversations. Pray the Lord would lead us to French students who are looking for Jesus.	12  Chloe's Birthday! We love you pumpkin! She will be 9.	13  Last day on Campus doing evangelism. Pray the last conversation is an impactful one.	14  Team goodbye party for us. Pray we celebrate well all the Lord has done.	15  Heidi and I would laugh easily, have fun together, rest well and seek God together through all the transitions.
16  Happy Father's day!	17  Pray for wisdom for us as we start to navigate what is next after this one year stint in France.	18  Pray for our kids to choose to see what is good and praise worthy at school & want to dwell on that.	19  Pray for all the packing. There is so much to sort, give away, sell and pack.	20  Pray for the team next year to continue to work well together after we are gone.	21  Pray our neighbors would be curious about Jesus and bring up questions about faith.	22  Neighbors are having a goodbye party for us! Thank the Lord for amazing friends this year.
23/30  The short term trip leaves. Pray the students they became friends with would connect well with the...	24  ...Cru staff and students in Toulouse and that they would continue to be curious about Christ.	25  Pray for it to be easy to sell our Car. It's hard to know exactly when to sell it. If you wait too long, then you...	26  ...might not sell it at all and if you sell it to soon, it's hard to get all the last errands done in the city we need to do.	27  Pray for no administrative headaches with things like terminating cell plans and internet.	28  Moving day. Thank you Lord for the wonderful home you provided for us this year.	29  We are going to a small town festival with our closest friends in France as a last goodbye with them. Pray we laugh and cry.