



### ***“How well it’s! How good it’s! How beautiful it’s!”***

It’s the words the Hebraic tradition uses, in Genesee book, to show the Creator’s delight in front of each creation! And it is only after having set up this environment of kindness and beauty that He can place the man there, and exclaim: "What an intense goodness!"

Making of some beautiful, making of some goodness, so that every man discovers God’s kindness, it is what we feel more and more called to. It is the entire reason for being of our couple. Since the preparation of our marriage, we had a foreboding of an appeal to the welcome, to the hospitality, but only now that we are really able to name the deeper content of this appeal.

And, when we look at our year, we can easily see tracks of this call in all what it was given to us to live.

Making of some beautiful, making of some goodness, it is what we live in our bigger and bigger closeness with the community of “la Roche d’Or<sup>1</sup>”. All that we make there (working in the garden, cooking, washing up, house-keeping, joinery, sewing, etc.) contributes that people being in retreat feel welcomed, liked, that they perceive God’s kindness which welcomes them there. Each of these shared moments is a step furthermore on the road which leads towards the Lord, a way to participate in the announcement of the Word. And, too, we benefit from it with happiness.

In the same way, the main target all the works we make in our house is to make it welcoming, so that all those who stop here feel well and feel its kindness. Beth-Salem, it is the "house of the peace". Shalom, Salam, Salem, means the peace, with the first meaning of plenitude, total fulfillment, "grand slam". This name was given to our house by the people whom we welcomed.

All year round, every met person, member of the family, neighbor or friend, Servas traveler, Warmshowers cyclist, Blablacar passenger, is a present of exchanges, opening on the world, on the others.

This is the way we lived every day with intensity, especially from May till November. Victor, a student having a training course in Minervois, lived with us during three months, and that was a very beautiful meeting. Anne-Lise, the eldest of our grandchildren, studying in Toulouse, always has her bedroom at home. A lot of short welcomes made us a small world tour do: Colombia, Sweden, South Africa, Iraq, Serbia, Ivory Coast, Taiwan, Poland, the United States, Morocco ...



Célya, Estelle, Oscar and Alexandre

Our grandchildren filled our summer days, and Sara’s presence, from the end of August to the end of October, with her four children, was a mutual present in sharing of life. Her presence at home allowed us to see our youngest grandson, Oscar (arrived in June, with summer) growing up and progressing. He is a ray of sunshine for the family. It gave us quite a funny feeling to rediscover a school rhythm with the three eldest during this period. Now that she joined Benoist, they settle down in their new house, in Nantes country.

Our other children and grandchildren go their own sweet way, and everything goes well. Cléa (# 10) made its entrance to the nursery school. Célya is on average section. Maxime and Alexandre are in the first year of primary school, Estelle in the last year of primary school and Orianne in the first year of secondary school. As for Charles, he prepares a degree named "safety for people and goods"



Cléa and Maxime



Anne-Lise, Charles and Orianne

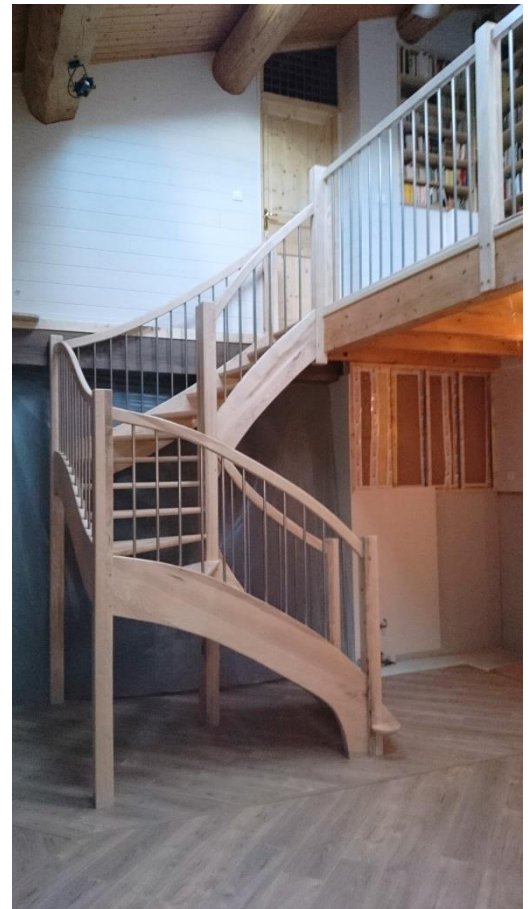
<sup>1</sup> <http://rochedor.fr/site/>

We were able to live a big family meeting around Mamilié, Jean-Michel's mom, to celebrate her 90 years. All the family, from the eldest (Jean-Michel) to the youngest (Oscar), was gathered. Her infarct a little frightened us, but "à ch't'heure, al' ar'c'minch' à faire des tartes.<sup>2</sup>" Everything goes well!

Our everyday life is not sad! Between the garden, so generous that our neighbors enjoy its fruits with us (that, it is some goodness! Vegetables are good and the sharing is good), the choir and its conviviality (that, it is some beauty!), the friends, and other multiple activities and the meetings, we try to dedicate a maximum of time to the progress of the house: a beautiful staircase was born in the living room. The fitting out of the "fireplace corner" takes shape, and soon we shall have pleasure to sit down there, between friends. Who of you will come and test it?

We wish you a  
**VERY HAPPY 2015 YEAR**  
and say you "see you soon".

Odile and Jean-Michel



<sup>2</sup>"Now, she starts again to make tarts" (North of France dialect)

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