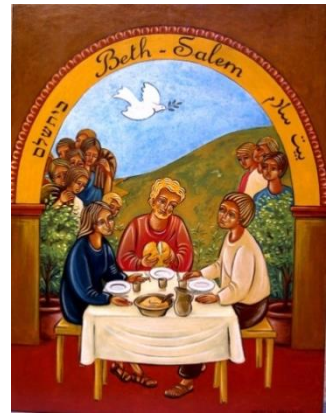




***“The eyes of the Lord are on those whose hope is in his unfailing love”***

*Hello to each of you, members of our family and friends,*

On the eve of this New Year, it's time to pick up the fruits of the one that's ending, and it's this verse of psalm 33 that sounds inside us because we taste the tenderness and the kindness we feel beneficiaries to. Each day we have opportunities to bless Him and give thanks to Him for his numerous godsend. In these troubled times, it seems us essential to strongly repeat it.



We were more active outside than inside the house. The existing terrace has been enlarged, and we worked a lot in the vegetable garden, particularly with the building of a shed, ready to welcome the future sowing, and the installation of a tank and an irrigation system that simplifies our life. We had a bumper crop (one of our most beautiful tomato weighed 2 lb). This caused a lot of processing work, and we like to give it, particularly to the “Fontanilles”. What a joy to be able to share with other people the fruits of our labour!

The works in the house went on a bit more slowly. The fireplace corner is achieved and also is the mechanism for the logs-lift. The piece of furniture around the logs-lift is being made, and the works will continue with the little saloon. We hope to achieve this floor as far as possible before April, when we'll host our friends of Servas International Executive Committee who'll have by us their yearly meeting.



We go on singing each week, and we took part to different concerts, meanly one each month from September. Our choirmaster makes us do some good job, be rhythmically or melodically. Taking part to the training sessions and concerts give us a shot in the arm in the heart of our week. Oh dear, I was forgetting: our new name is « Tutti Swing »

We always have an open door for hosting Servas and Warmshowers members (38 people hosted this year, among them several families with their children). We discover some people who really make lifestyle choices, and through their commitments, they influence our personal choices and involvement. We also visited some Servas members that are friends today. In June, we went to northern Italy with Anne-Lise for a week. This stay allowed us to meet three very welcoming Servas families.



Our commitment with Roche d'Or Community is always very important, particularly in the Fontanilles house. We discover, day after day, how it becomes possible and easy to serve the Gospel preaching by sharing the community's work. Jean-Michel is invested in DIY and maintenance works, even in building, and Odile wavers essentially between the laundry and the kitchen. So our live finds its sense, and, be at home or elsewhere, we work in the same direction: to announce God's kindness.

Our children are fit and well... **Lydie**, in her new home, discovers unexpected talents of all-purpose DIY and already converted an old flat into a clean, welcoming and alive home. We stayed one week by her and Jean-Michel fixed her toilets. We go on supporting **Anne-Lise** in her studies in Toulouse, and are very proud of her, her autonomy, the results she gets thanks to her hard work. **Charles** discovers the joys and difficulties according to his volunteer firefighter commitment, and goes on with pleasure in his security learning at the high school. **Orianne** is in grade 7, and goes her own sweet way.

**Sara and Benoist** organize their life near Nantes, and we plan to visit them in February, for the building of the children' cabin, the "Boulignette", which leaved Bouligne and arrived in La Marne... Their children fit onto their new life, and **Estelle** just entered the secondary school, **Oscar** (17 months) walks and discovers the life and his surroundings, bangs and falls down, and also gets up... **Célya** and **Alexandre** are kind of a dynamic duo for playing as well as doing stupid things...

**Céline and Ghislain** quietly live their life and we see them regularly by hosting **Maxime** and **Cléa** during a part of school holidays. We're delighted and amazed seeing how they feel at home as soon as they arrive, going to their bedroom, settling down and going back to their normal routine. They are "by them by us"!



## Fioretti

In Italy, our car gave us some signs of failure, and we decided to change it. This time, we decided to choose a little comfortable road car that we would not be tempted to turn into a van, for we had our old brave 220,000 miles Scénic, very useful for carrying building materials and heating wood, and to tow the trailer.

In August, Anne-Lise did an internship in an optician store in Lézignan. She lived in her bedroom at home and used the Scénic for her moving. On the last internship day, she had an accident at the exit of the village. Nothing serious for her (she will undergo surgery at the end of January for her nose was broken by the airbag), but the car was once and for all crashed. So we had no more "van"! Then our neighbour spontaneously suggested us to use an old car he rarely uses... We would add that, to our great surprise, our insurance payed us enough money to buy a little second-hand car. We asked it to a blablacar traveller we carried in January and whose job it is...

A biker, whom we suggested to stay a couple of days, answered that he'll do it only if he could help us. We went together and bought one and a half ton of sand for the terrace enlargement and he unloaded all of that with a shove...

Recently, we hosted a young New-Zealander biking lady, finishing a long trip around Europa, and who had to face hard difficulties, in a depressive phase. To help her was not easy. Indeed, we spoke only English and were afraid neither to correctly understand her nor to correctly be understood. We had several phone calls through the planet with, among others, one friend of hers who speaks French. Furthermore, during her stay at home, we hosted a couple of Servas Australian travellers who understood the problem and supported us a lot, particularly taking her when they visited Carcassonne. We had to help her to fly back to London with her bike. A friend of hers waited for her and helped her to fly back to Australia. She wrote us from Australia and thanked us. We appreciated a lot to take part in and international helping chain.

These are only some little examples of what we frequently live, and that strengthen us that "The eyes of the Lord are on those whose hope is in his unfailing love".

We hope for each of you a very happy 2016 year, after having well finished 2015!

May each of you find his happiness and his enjoyments, may these always be more numerous than troubles and worries.

Hopping soon to see you or receive news from you.

Odile and Jean-Michel

PS : we made a new website [www.beth-salem.net](http://www.beth-salem.net). You'll find a lot of pictures of the house, and all our newsletters and guest books.