



Hello to all of you, our friends,

*« Don't forget hospitality.
Because in this way some have had angels as their guests,
without being conscious of it. »*

That quote from the Hebrews letter was written in our host book by a bishop we hosted more than twenty years ago. We're more and more aware of experimenting it.

Here are some news that will tell you all the significant things we lived and live today.

The family



Orianne, Anne-Lise, Charles

Each of our children and grandchildren live his own life, and grow in his own way.

We especially support Ghislain who separated from Céline, and Lydie who, after been dismissed for health reasons, struggles with a lot of energy in order to be trained enough to be able to find a new position.

Anne-Lise passed her exam and became an optician (glasses maker) and found a job (and a flat) in Carcassonne. She goes on work-linked training for contactology and optometry. Charles passed his high school diploma « Security of persons and property » and is waiting for his definitive integration in a parachute regiment. In the meantime, he participates in different missions "sentry" (against terrorism). Orianne is in year 10, with the difficulties inherent in teenage.

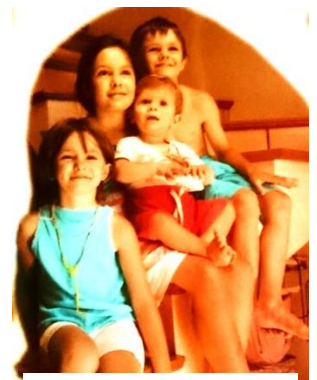
Estelle is in year 9 and works very well; she too gently enter teenage... Alexandre, Célya and Oscar quietly go their own way. We spent quite some time this year arranging their bedrooms.



Ghislain, Maxime, Cléa

Maxime and Cléa have to get used to her parents separation, and adapt to new marks. We recently enjoyed in hosted them several times with their daddy.

And, in this end of year, we're after Mamilie¹. She is 93 and her heart is extremely tired. One month ago, her doctor, who was worried, ordered her admission to hospital. This hospitalisation was absolutely useless, but contributed to decrease her and make her lose a lot of autonomy. Since then, her three children, her daughters-in-law and grandchildren take turns near her to help her to get back on her feet. It's an outstanding experience by which the brotherly and family relations retie in depth. What a chance to live such a getting along between brothers and sister and family! We really agree, both for material topics and for our way of peacefully waiting for her death, helping her to live it with least possible suffering, but, above all, without aggressive therapy. It's also a strong experience to be in the service of our mother and mother-in-law, telling her our affection in different ways, by cooking, board gaming, massage, etc.



Célya, Estelle, Oscar, Alexandre



Mamilie



The works around the house

There was a great step forward this year concerning the last phase of work. It all started in April when Alfonso, our mason friend who is putting all his skill and seriousness in the service of our project, built a low wall. We then made the tortoises' terrace, with a plant wall, an interior garden, a basin and a waterfall. One month later, the summer dining room appeared, followed in October by the insulating floor of the new building.



Making the insulating floor with Alfonso

¹ Jean-Michel's mum



Oak beam installation with Grégoire



But nothing stopped the impetus; as soon as Alfonso left, Grégoire took over. 19 years old, energetic, avid to learn and to share. These qualities made of him a very good “rabbit²”. We began to be getting things done, and made the building frame. Grégoire and us experimented that the combination of an old man who “knows” with a young one who “can” is very efficient.

By mid-November, the carpentry and roofing company began the work, and the building roofing is completed today. The workmen from the workers’ cooperative made a wonderful, accurate, clean, very satisfying work.

We also made the new oak staircase that freed us from the ladder we had to use during one month and a half for going to bed. The works are going to continue by January with the installation of joineries.

These works are made possible thanks to the confidence of some of you who agreed to give us some financial help, and we repeat them our gratitude.



Our activities and involvements

This year again a lot of people benefit from Beth-Salem hosting. Looking at our guestbook, the figures speak by themselves:

10 SERVAS travellers, 8 bikers from WarmShowers, 13 carpooling passengers “Blablacar”, several friends’ tens (ours and our grandchildren’ ones). Apart from France, those people came from Algeria, Germany, Belgium, Canada, Italy, New Zealand and Morocco.

Even if they’re short, these meetings are always very rich and some of these people are really fascinating. It’s really here that the works in the house make sense, and, more than ever, we feel happy to exercise this hospitality, with commitment. Here is a key of our happiness.

Our choir celebrated this year its 10 years, and we decided to leave it and focus on other activities. In this very sympathetic group we experienced and shared very good moments.

Our involvement with Roche d’Or community is more and more current, particularly in the Fontanilles house, although if, this year, we went there less regularly, being occupied by other duties. We speak about an involvement, and it’s true; we feel involved in the proclamation of the Word of God. But we must also say that it’s mainly, for us, a place of resourcing, of breathing. We feel it’s our home, our family, and always are happy to go there, be in Besançon or Fontanilles. We do like to meet up the community’s members, and the other “fellow-travellers” who, like us, find their happiness serving the Word of God. This year was celebrated the centenary of Florin Callerand’s birth (the founder); on that occasion was published a wonderful book we highly recommend³.

We wish to each of you a very good and happy 2018 year, hopping to see you or receive news from you. It’ll be a great joy for us.

Odile and Jean-Michel



The Peace peer-tree offered by SERVAS international

² Carpenter apprentice

³ <http://www.rochedor.fr/site/editions.php?Rubrique=Les inédits&Rub=21>

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