

September Prayer Update 2026



Joel and Tiffanie Atwood

with Hosea, Timotheus and Zephaniah

IFES | New Caledonia



Dear Friends,

Last time we shared some of the ways we've been approaching the steep hill of learning French. We're slowly progressing, and with lots of help from our friends here we've been able to start dipping our toes into ministry here in New Caledonia.

Prayer points

- Pray for Joel as he prepares to preach (11th Oct and 25th Oct). Please pray for patience and wisdom in preparation, dependence on the Spirit in teaching and applying, and clarity of sounds!
- Pray too for these opportunities to open up connections with other churches to help us as we pray towards relaunching the student ministry.
- Thank God for being able to meet and start to get to know some parents at the boys' school.
- Pray especially for T & S, and C, who have children in Timmi and Zephie's classes and who we've been able to chat with a few times - as our language and friendship improves, we're praying for opportunities to share Jesus with them.
- Give thanks for the time we had with Glen from CMS (our regional mission director) who visited us in early September.

Thanks for praying for Joel's preaching

Joel took a leap and attempted his first full sermon in French in late August at our church here. With enough preparation he can wrangle the grammar and vocab, but his big anxiety was his accent being too strong for people to listen and understand. By God's grace, and with a lot of 'accent coaching' with Peter the pastor, it went kind of okay! (I, Tiff, think it went more than okay. Many people came to me and were complimenting Joel's preaching, and how his accent was good, and they understood everything!)



This is a big encouragement as we feel the frustration of slow progress in language and see the weeks ticking down to the new year and our plans to reboot student work on the university campus here.

It's also opened up more opportunities to preach – another at our church on the 11th October, and more importantly an invite to share a short message at a combined church service with other similar congregations on the 25th.

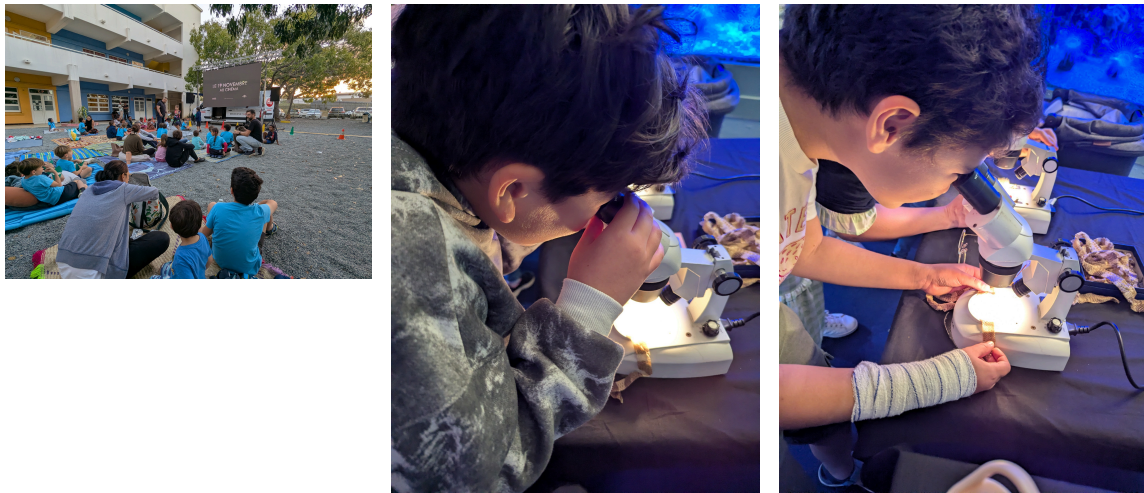
The Pacific region

Joel has also begun more regular training with other staff teams around the Pacific region. He's been working through the process of preaching with the staff from the Solomons: Eddie, Rose, and Amelia—you might remember Eddie was one of our regional law students in our early years in Vanuatu, and we've visited their movement twice over the last few years, so it's a joy to get to work with them more closely. As the student movement has grown in the Solomons, the staff are often invited to speak at churches and youth events—often with (let's say 'interesting') topics given to them at the last minute. We've been trying to work through how to prioritise the gospel and faithfully unpack the Bible through these topics.

He's also been in touch with the staff team in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, that he visited in early July, mentoring two of their male apprentices, helping their new team leader get used to leading their team, and running some sessions on emotions in ministry.

Family

We feel like our family has been in a continual cycle of sickness and injury these last few months, with the boys getting sick and missing school every other week, and often kindly sharing these illnesses with us. Even with all this, we've enjoyed getting more involved in the school community this term—we've been volunteering on school excursions to practice French and get to know other parents, appreciating the school's efforts to build community with movie nights and other events, and rejoicing at God's kindness in seeing the boys flourishing in their new community here.



(Left to right / Top to bottom): Movie night at school; H and T trying out the microscope at a special event at the aquarium

Pastoral visit

We also welcomed Glen, our regional mission director, for a whirlwind trip in early September. It was great to have him come and see us in Noumea, meet with our church again, and encourage and spur us on. We're so grateful for CMS's dedication and investment in personal visits to our locations to see and talk through our life and ministry in situ.



A game of soccer not long after Glen's arrival. Our weekend was so jam-packed that this was the only photo we took!

Thanks for your continuous prayers for us.

In Him,
J, T, h, t, z



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