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Oct-Nov Prayer Update 2026



CMS



## Joel and Tiffanie Atwood

*with Hosea, Timotheus and Zephaniah*

IFES | New Caledonia

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Dear Friends,

We have been here in Nouméa for six months already! There is much to thank God for and ask God for. Since we last wrote to you, Joel has preached two more times at different churches, and we have a way forward with Tiff's visa.

## Prayer points

- Thank God for opportunities given to Joel to preach at different churches.
- Thank God for the relationships we are building.
- Ask God for a smooth process for Tiff's visa.
- Ask God to protect Joel and the boys while Tiff is away.

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## A long way to go...

Having dipped my toe into preaching in French, I (Joel) was invited to speak at a combined church service with 4-5 congregations loosely affiliated with the Free Church. It was nerve-wracking (it's been a long time since my legs shook while speaking...thank goodness for solid pulpits!) given my struggles with pronunciation and fear of clarity, but by God's grace and with lots of helpful friends beforehand I managed to bumble through Luke 15. More importantly, the combined service was a great chance to meet leaders and members of aligned churches and start sharing a little about our plans for the student work; hoping to meet any existing students who

might like to form a core group with us. These connections have led to a few more invites to speak across the network in the coming weeks.

- Thank God for the hospitality, grace, and patience of these congregations in inviting us to be with them and bearing with our ongoing language struggles (see below).
- Please pray for faithfulness in preparation, clarity in delivery, and opportunities to meet students in these churches.

This Sunday just passed, Joel spoke at another church (the first invite after the combined service), and we were invited to share a meal at the elder's house along with a few others from church. We chatted, observed, listened and learnt a few things from the elder about the culture here in Nouméa. It was a lovely time spent but also exhausting as I (Tiff) try to understand the fast pace of the conversations, catching a word here and there, and I thought to myself, "my language is not where I thought I was. Not everyone will slow down for you to understand. I have so much to learn still and a longggg way to go with language and cultural learning."

As I reflect on the other day, I am once again reminded of the importance of long-term mission. Learning takes time, and for that, I am thankful that CMS encourages us to take our time, especially during our first year on location, to not dive straight into ministry, but to slow down, and learn the language well, and learn from locals. Long-term mission needs long-term partners, and for that, I am thankful to you all, you who have been faithfully praying for us and financially supporting us, to see a world that knows Jesus.






From top/left to bottom/right: Joel preaching at the combined church service, Joel preaching at the second church, lunch at the elder's house

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## Tiff's visa

After much waiting, we finally have a way forward for Tiff's visa! Tiff will be returning to Sydney this week for her visa interview on Friday (6th Nov), and she will be there for at least a month, until her new visa is granted.

While Tiff is away, Joel will be holding down the fort here in Nouméa. Please pray for extra energy for Joel as he looks after the three boys, all the while trying to fit in work.

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# Family

October was filled with celebration and activities. Zephie turned 4 earlier in October. At his request, we went for a picnic after school, followed by cricket (of course!), a pool themed cake and ended the day with a trip to Maccas! What a day!








During the two weeks school holidays here, much like Australia, there were many activities that the kids can participate in.





At the Maritime Museum





A night at the park filled with all different kinds of shows (fire show, magic show, show with big puppets, etc)





A fun day at school with games, food, and kids dressing up

Thanks for your continuous prayers for us.

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

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CMS is a fellowship of Christian people and churches committed to global mission. We work together to set apart long-term workers who cross cultures to share the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our vision is for a world that knows Jesus. We aim to do this by: reaching gospel-poor peoples for Christ, equipping Christian leaders for church and society, and engaging churches in cross-cultural mission.

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