



# Daveys to France

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Dear friends

Thanks for your interest and support as we prepare to serve God in Bordeaux. I thought I would begin by outlining some of the work we hope to do there.

Firstly, student work will be a priority. Our churches in Britain have benefited greatly from the work of UCCF over many years. We would love to see God enrich the churches of France with committed, convinced Christian men and women who will be effective church members and church leaders. We hope to work in partnership with GBU, the French equivalent of UCCF. In this way, if God wills, our little ministry in Bordeaux could make quite a difference for years to come. Of course, by studying French in the DEFLE (a university department for overseas students) we will be students ourselves!

Secondly, churches in France are often small and the work is hard. Pastors are busy, and it can be demanding simply to try to maintain the status quo. Under those circumstances it is difficult to think regionally or to try to work together or to relate constructively with other gospel churches. We would love to see churches expressing their gospel unity, relating well, and working together to evangelise the Gironde and see new churches planted in its towns and villages.

Thirdly, although France's churches had a strong Bible heritage in past centuries, it is not so easy now to find a church where the Bible is preached simply, straightforwardly and directly. We want to encourage Bible ministry. It may mean that in time student ministry becomes less of a priority and we become more directly involved in church planting.

Well that all seems very daunting. What's been happening so far? Lots! I'll get on with it!

1. In the church here. Although we have not yet actually called a new pastor for the church here, we have made good progress in talks, and I am very hopeful for the near future.
2. Pat has been enjoying working hard at the North West Training Course.
3. Pat had a successful minor operation on her hand for "trigger finger".
4. French studies have plodded on. There are no convenient post-A-level courses in the area, so my class isn't pushing me on much, and pressure of time put Pat's studies on hold. Still, the Bordeaux DEFLE should sort us out o.k.
5. The house is looking nicer than ever, with gleaming white paintwork in the hall, etc. We hope to put it on the market after Easter to try to catch things at the best time.
6. I have sold quite a lot of books, mainly on Amazon. There's more to go, and I think I will have to pay a visit to our local secondhand bookshops very soon.
7. Deputation has been very encouraging, with opportunities to visit several churches that we have long-standing links with and which we love very much. So many people take such an interest in France that we are assured of many people's prayers!

8. By the time you receive this I hope that pledges of on-going financial support will have begun to be made.

That is a good prompt to talk about our support needs. (I'll also enclose a leaflet with the posted copies of this letter.)

Our monthly support targets work out as follows:

£1540 Personal allowance. (food, clothing, heating the home, etc.)

£719 Ministry expenses and housing. (including French tuition and part of our rent.)

£650 N.I., pension, health insurance, etc.

This adds up to the grand sum of £2909 per month. Christian work in Europe is costly!

We hope to move to Bordeaux in August. This will enable the children to begin school there at the start of term in early September. Our French courses begin in October.

Before we can go we need to have financial support pledged to cover 100% of our needs. Support can be pledged immediately, and UFM suggest that it is appropriate for actual gifts to begin to be made from June.

#### Matters for prayer

1. A well-timed sale and a decent price for our house. We hope to use the money from the house to buy outright in Gironde eventually.
2. For deputation, including manning the UFM stand at FIEC, and some visits to Scotland! I also hope to speak about the work in France at some other conferences.
3. For prayer support and financial support to be forthcoming.
4. To rent a flat in Bordeaux we will need a guarantor.
5. For the children. Gwilym said recently "I wish we could go now. It's boring waiting." Catrin doesn't say much at all.
6. For Pat's reconnaissance visit. She goes for 4 days on Easter Monday, and she hopes to find out about schooling, housing, and lots more.
7. I've been asked to write an article about the experience of being called overseas while pastoring in Britain. Please pray for me in this. I don't find writing easy!

*"And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ" (Colossians 4:3)* Just now that means getting us there!

Thank you for your interest, your concern and your prayers. They mean more to us than we could ever say.

*Alan, Pat, Gwilym & Catrin*

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If you would like to continue to receive the Daveys' prayer letters please either contact by e-mail [phil.harman@deeside.org.uk](mailto:phil.harman@deeside.org.uk), or fill in this slip and return it to:  
Mr. Phil Harman, 14 Eaton Avenue, Connah's Quay, Flintshire. CH5 4HR

Please send me the Daveys' prayer letter.

Name:

Address:

You may like to receive the prayer letter by e-mail. If so please give your e-mail address.  
Contact re. financial support directly to: UFM Worldwide, 47a Fleet Street, Swindon, Wilts. SN1 1RE