



The class of February 2006

Daveys in France

Issue 7, April 2006

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Dear friends and supporters,

Easter approaches. It's the best time of the year, the time of hope. In France there's everything except hope. *Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint* (Proverbs 29:18) That's France today. It's a real consumer society. The supermarket staff have « Can I help you to consume better? » on their jackets. But with massive youth unemployment, huge drink problems, horrific suicide rates, and churches that are generally virtually invisible and prey to every crazy madness you can imagine. Meanwhile France is undergoing its second cycle of rioting since we arrived. We don't think there's a connection! But God is good and his Spirit is mighty, and if the gates of hell will not withstand Jesus' church, then I don't imagine the frontiers of France will. Do you?



A rainy day manifestation

Thank you so much for your prayers. We have had a good three months.

School

Gwilym and Catrin are well settled in school now. Catrin had a crisis in February relating to her English lessons. We waited too long before tackling the issue, but thankfully the headmistress understood both our problem and our point of view and all is resolved. Both children have had a very happy term. A student comes to the house every Wednesday to give Catrin 2 hours French tuition. It has helped tremendously!

Language school.

Pat and Alan both got good exam results. Alan got Mention Bien and Pat got Mention Assez bien (and all the ladies in the ladies' meeting cheered!) Of course it's not about exam results, but good ones are better than bad ones. Many of our friends left at the end of last term, but there are always new people to get to know. Please pray for one girl (A) who started Bible studies with Carol Liddiard, but who had to stop because of her course. She wants to start again when she can.

Also pray for (R) who came along to church and seemed very touched by what he heard, but who left the language course in February. Pray that God will meet with him.

The synod

Yes, that's right. Alan attended the Branoux Synod of the EREI (Eglise Réformée Evangélique Indépendante de France). It was a useful fact-finding time, the language worked very well and there were people from all over the place. One chap said, "everyone has an accent here – even the French"

The summer

We hope to spend some time in Britain this summer on holiday and with family. The children finish school on July 5th and we have to be in France for August 5th, so it will be some time between those dates.

The way ahead

The current term at language school finishes in June. Over the next few months there are a lot of decisions to make.

What about further language study? Pat will almost certainly continue at the DEFLE. What should Alan do, if anything?

Where should our main sphere of work be? With students? With the Gironde churches? Should we begin a new work in Bordeaux City Centre?

What about housing? Our little bungalow is super, but rent is expensive and it takes an hour to get into town (it's quicker if you drive but then you can't park!) Should we try and buy a house to live in? That would mean a mortgage, but that's better than paying an ever-increasing rent.

Thank you once again for all your prayers.

A bientôt!

Alan, Pat, Gwilym & Catrin



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