



Daveys in France

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He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable and his cradle was a stall. With the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.

Dear friends and supporters,

Firstly let us wish you every blessing for Christmas and the New Year. This may not reach you before Christmas, but our wishes are no less sincere.

Again there's lots to tell you about. We'll begin with family news : We're all fine - now. But Pat had a nasty bout of sciatica which prevented us from going to the UFM Europe Conference in Spain and Alan from attending the Pastors' conference of the EREI. An MRI scan, morphine, a bed-pan - these all became part of our life for a while. But now Pat's "back" to normal (no pun intended).

The new building is proving very convenient and we've seen new faces both at the French and the International services. Often Chinese faces. Let me tell you about one of them, A.C.

Before the very first International Service we were told of someone who had made enquiries at the Christian bookshop asking for a Chinese or English church. He was informed that we'd be starting services in a few weeks so he came along to the first one, met at the tram-stop by Fiona. A.C. turns out to be a very natural evangelist among the Chinese. He meets new students on the tram, brings them to church, sends them to the student centre, helps them find accommodation. Please pray for his wife and son, still in Martinique until his son finishes high school, and for his daughter whose studies brought them to Bordeaux. Pray that the whole family will share this living faith in Jesus Christ.

The presence of a good number of Chinese students in the International services and home groups encouraged Alan to preach and teach simply and clearly. It's done him a power of good, and influenced his preaching in French, too ! G. is a French lady who has started coming to the international home groups. Please pray that she will soon understand and believe the gospel. F.H, a teacher from the children's school, has expressed interest in the home groups, too. We may begin Christianity Explored in simple English in the New Year. We have had our first request for baptism in the International group, too.

Meanwhile in the student work we continue with the surveys and questionnaires. Alan's done more questionnaires than ever before, but no evangelistic Bible studies yet. Pat's back doing surveys now, too, after the break imposed by her illness. Fiona and some of the students are also engaged in this of course. We still give away lots of Bibles and every Bible comes with a set of gospel studies to follow. Please pray for this work. We long to see French students coming to faith.

The English class has grown as the Chinese students have come along. They come to everything ! S.C. , our long-term Chinese student, and A.C. work well as a team and S. is now in charge of the Chinese group which is starting to meet up again. I wonder if we are seeing the gestation of the Bordeaux Chinese church... All in God's time.

Meanwhile in the French church the new building has brought financial challenges which affect us as a mission team - the student centre needs to become financially independent of the church. To do this we need to be able to pay all the rent of the centre ourselves. So the mission has set up a special project fund to enable this to happen. If you'd like to be part of that project you can direct giving to the mission and simply label it Bordeaux Student Centre, and that'll work fine.

More changes ahead in the French church - Samy Foucachon and his family will be returning to the USA this June. We are very sorry to lose them but the timing is clearly in God's plan. A new pastor has been called, Dik Briennen, currently at Montauban and until recently chairman of our region. Thank God for all that has been achieved during the Foucachons' eight years in Bordeaux and please pray for Dik and Hetty as they move to Bordeaux and begin to serve here in August.

Then the International Carol Service which was last Sunday evening. This was a super time, energetically led by Ben Griffin with readers from Haiti, France, England, USA and China. The most obvious thing was how few Chinese were there ! Someone was moving house so all were carrying boxes etc. However we had new faces - French and American ones. We also had two new French couples come to church in the morning.

As I write we still have the French Christmas services on the 21st and 24th before us and Christmas Day at the student centre. We spent last Thursday evening inviting students to Christmas lunch. I assured a muslim student that the meat would be halal and told lots of the others that if they came along they'd be able to speak together in Mandarin !

Thank you for your faithful prayers.
Every blessing,

Alan, Pat, Gwilym & Catrin

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Mr. Phil Harman, 14 Eaton Avenue, Connah's Quay, Flintshire. CH5 4HR

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