

Student ministry

Christmas Day. Thank God that over 20 were at the centre. The day went well. Some are going to come back for basic Bible studies, some for the English class. Thank God, too, for the men from the church who came along to help.

English class. Thank God for those who come who are not yet Christians and for the testimony of the Christians who come. Pray that God's word would lodge in the hearts of all.

Thursday Bible Study. This quarter Alan will be leading most of these studies. Please pray that Christians will bring their friends. We may study Mark's gospel.

Individuals. Pray that God will encourage the men students and that they will grow in their faith and commitment.

Surveys. Pray that God will lead us to those whose hearts he is preparing.

Schools

Pat continues happily at the language school and enjoys the opportunity to reach students from all over the world. Some of them see her as a mother figure. Thankfully not a grandmother... We are considering whether she should continue next year, both for the sake of the language and for the opportunities for witness. Gwilym and Catrin are very happy and at ease in their schools now, and continuing to make good progress. Gwilym's school report is very encouraging considering he is just starting his second year in France. His written French lags behind his oral French. Alan has the opposite problem. Funny that! Catrin enjoys school and also the Sunday school at church.

Church ministry

Thank God for the appointment of the church's first elder, Patrick. Thank God that though Alan preaches in French with an atrocious accent, people understand and welcome his ministry.

This next three months will be busier while the pastor of the church and his family are spending two months in the USA raising support. Please pray for them. They need more partners.

The left bank area group (*Groupe Rive Gauche*) will at last be starting up (hooray!) Pray for us as we begin this new group in our home. Also Alan is starting a Pessac men's group to study Graeme Goldsworthy's *Preaching the whole Bible as Christian Scripture* (in French of course).

We think we are church members now – at least, we filled in the forms (this *is* France).

Please pray for the unity and cohesion of the church, and pray that the new elder will be encouraged during Sammy and Carol's absence.

Other matters for prayer

Phillip Morgan, a student from ETCW in Bridgend, is coming for a three week placement in January to work amongst the Chinese. He speaks Mandarin, English and Welsh but no French. Please pray that God would bless his time here.

Thank God that we made it through the year financially, thanks to your support. This year we would like to see the student resource centre better stocked with more books, DVDs and, if possible, some more computers. Also we need to establish a 'fighting fund' ready for any big expenses that may arise. For this reason we are looking to God to increase our support level over the next few years..

Daveys to France – New Year 2007

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Thank you for your interest, your prayers and your support. We pray that in this year of God's grace to this fallen world, that he will bless you and us together as we serve his glorious and ever-reigning Son.

*Alan, Pat,
Gwilym and Catrin*

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1 Peter 3:14 – 17 'Do not fear what they fear, do not be frightened'. But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

The other day when reading Isaiah 8 in church my mind turned to the way Peter applies that text to those who are persecuted, and his concern for their witness to their hope. It made me wonder how much we have acted out of fear this year, and how much out of faith. Perhaps only God knows, but thankfully God can help us live by faith in 2007 by setting Jesus Christ apart as Lord in our hearts.



Family life

We have now been in the house for two months and we are starting to get used to things. We still have a mound of unopened boxes stuffed under the (open) staircase, but basically we are functioning OK. It is bliss to be near the schools and the university, to have simple journeys home from the student centre by bus and tram, and to have shops and parks nearby. Our bicycles are seeing more use than they have for years! Our health has been basically good – just the usual winter colds. Alan had to have a blood test at the end of last year and everything was OK – even his cholesterol level. The one niggle is that Catrin suffers from fluid retention beneath her ear drums, which causes ear aches and headaches. We need to get her hearing checked but we think the doctors will just treat her symptoms rather than give her grommets.