



Daveys in France

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"Be strong and courageous... Be strong and very courageous... Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1 : 6 - 9

Dear friends,

Alan is writing this just one week before we leave for Britain, but there's so much to share with you !

Firstly here's some notable dates during our visit to Britain.

7 July - Grove Chapel, Camberwell

17 - 24 July Keswick Convention

26 - 30 July UFM Family Conference

31 July - 7 Aug Children on camp in North Wales

1 August - preach at Christ Church Shotton

8 August - preach at Shrewsbury Evangelical Church

9 August return to France.

The rest of the time we're basically visiting our families and our home church. Please pray for our journeys, we'll be doing lots of kilometres !

This time we'll start with family news. Catrin has done well in school and goes up into the next class (quatrième). Gwilym sits his Brevet (O levels) on 29 and 30 June. He's had a good year in school and needs just 3/20 in his exams to pass his year. He's also been accepted at the Lycée Pro Alphonse Beau de Rochas to do a Bac Pro in *Métiers de l'Automobile*, which opens the way to a career linked with cars somehow (mechanic, workshop management, car design, all sorts). Pat and Alan are both well !

As regards the mission we have come to the end of our first term. Proper missionaries return home after four years for a year's home assignment during which they can reflect on the past, consider the future, and also put in place a plan for financing the next term of service. We do not anticipate spending a year in Britain, but we do hope to meet up with the mission authorities while at Family Conference for a Personnel Panel, when we'll seriously consider all that. God has been very good to us. Basically we've been able to leave our personal allowances at the same level since 2005 and due to low inflation we've got by. Also despite us never really meeting the mission target for our financial support, here we are five years in. It's more than probable that figures will need to rise for the next four year term, however, hindered by the economic climate, but maybe helped by a stronger pound ? Who knows ? God knows, that's who !

Money ! We face a big decision over the student centre. For the first few years of its existence the student centre was rented with a lot of financial help from the church here. Following the move into the Cenon premises the church has been unable to continue this help and so we need to fund the rent and the bills ourselves. This amounts to several hundred Euros a month. If you think God may be leading you to help in this then do please contact the mission where there is a project set up for the purpose. We expect the decision to stay or to leave to be taken in the first few months after the summer.

Then there's the purchase of the church building. Listen to this ! As we were negotiating the price for the small building we occupy an estate agent phoned Dik, the French pastor, to talk about another possibility. Dik, J-P and I went down the next morning to see it. It's a small supermarket right by the tram-stop. It would immediately give us a room slightly bigger than we have now. However just behind is a MASSIVE warehouse, and there we could build both a manse and a sanctuary that could hold 200 to 300 people ! The front building could then be used for street-front outreach etc. Well we were excited, but we thought it wise to get the opinion of the architect that God kindly gave us in the church. He saw it and *he* was excited. We thought it wise to talk to the folk in our

fellowship of churches. *They* got excited ! So the news is that the national fellowship of churches is working hard to buy the place and then we will lease it from them until we have paid for it. This is a nice blend of purchasing power from a national group and local responsibility. It does mean that we are looking for almost 500 000 Euros instead of 300 000, but we really believe that God having brought us this far he means to take us all the way. There is scope to help with this if God leads you that way, but you'd need to contact us rather than the mission.



This building will enable us to grow. We already squash into our current premises sometimes. It will also enable us to minister more widely. Bordeaux needs a premises where conferences and training can take place to equip and encourage God's people. The existing churches are out in the suburbs and sometimes quite

hard to get to by tram or bus. This building will have easy parking around it and a tram right alongside. We are just amazed and humbled.

Another amazing thing - you know our student M who's currently in London working with St Helen's Bishopsgate amongst overseas students and doing the Cornhill Training Course ? Well he contacted us the other month saying that if Dik and I wanted to go along to the EMA the church would sort out accommodation for us. Well we have just come back and it was a great time. Everything was good, except Easyjet delays ! We were impressed with Rupert Bentley-Taylor's careful application of the life of Samson, with Christopher Ash's quiet methodical exploration of Word and Spirit in John's gospel and with John Piper's humble honesty as he expounded life in the spirit from Galatians. Wonderful for Dik to be there and great to meet two students from the faculty of Aix-en-Provence. Preaching is not strong in France, but maybe things are starting to look up.

Some other quick ministry news :

While we're in Britain Mark McGowan will be staying in our house and preaching in English Sunday evenings and also a bit in French. Thank God for this wonderful provision.

Also Liz Richards will be staying at our place preparing for the start of the student year. Thanks Liz !

We have said goodbye in the English Services to some wonderful students from the USA, from India, from all over. We said goodbye to our professional basketball player, but we welcomed an international opera singer (our singing was wonderful for a few weeks !) and now a professional rugby player who's here on a two-year contract with Bordeaux-Bègles. Please pray that the new folks settle well and that we can be useful in reaching other English-speaking folk.

New faces in the French services, too, including some couples in their 40s or 50s. A new opening in the centre of Blaye means that we hope to start services there in the autumn.

We learned a lot from our mission with the Agapé Campus team from Toulouse. One is a more open-ended kind of survey called Soularium which we've enjoyed using and which leads to good conversations with students. We also plan to shorten Christianity Explored so it fits better into student terms.

We're also excited about the return of our friends from Missions Vacances for a week of outreach 31/8 to 7/9. Do please pray that God would lead and guide and give *conversions* !

Thank you again for your wonderful partnership in the work.

Every blessing,

Alan, Pat, Gwilym & Catrin

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