



International Barbecue, 28 February

Daveys in France

N° 18, March 2009

Alan & Pat Davey
14b Rue Pérès
33600 Pessac
France

alandavey@gmail.com

www.daveys2france.blogspot.com

Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him. Psalm 126, 5&6

Dear friends and supporters,

At Christmas one of the friends from the International Fellowship wrote *Let us sow, sow, sow. Anyone can count the seeds in an apple, but who can count the apples in a seed.* It's true that this is a time of sowing in France but thankfully there are signs of growth to encourage us, too.

In the French church we are encouraged by the progress in the young men. *M* is always willing to help with evangelism and shares the gospel in a very natural and friendly way. *O* is organising Sunday evening Bible studies for the students and young adults from our church and various others. *S* co-leads the Chinese group and brings friends along to church both to the French services and to the English ones.

Meanwhile we face big decisions about our building. Should we continue to pay almost all our income in rent or should we buy the building and pay less on a mortgage? Meanwhile when *Dik*, the new pastor comes in August he will also need to find a place to live. So should we look for a house with a basement we can convert to a church, or with a garden where we could build a meeting place, or should we stay where we are and try to find a flat for the *couple pastoral*? This kind of dilemma is not unique to us in Bordeaux - it is shared by so many new churches in France's big towns where property prices are so high.

Yesterday Alan took a step forward in his preaching in French and abandoned his full text in favour of a simple Mindmap outline. He's wanted to do this because it encourages a simpler more direct preaching style and more eye-contact with people. It seemed to be OK. The only feedback has been positive and certainly nobody said "Don't ever do that again!"

January was a hard and frustrating month in the international services and so we changed our format at church a little and met around a long table. This made discussion and prayer together much easier. Alan still preaches, though seated and without projecting his voice. We still sing, too - very well! February brought new faces. Some had found us through the website www.bordeauxchurch.info, so that's been a great encouragement, and we no longer fit round the table! Please pray that God will bring us into contact with those for whom the English language will help them hear the gospel.

In the student work outreach continues with surveys, Bible Studies and English classes. One faithful member of the English class is Pat's Bahrainian friend from her French group. She returns to Bahrain in the summer, but we hope to keep up contact. She and

her family came to eat with us recently and the children all get on well together. One advantage of muslims is that it really isn't an issue to speak of your faith openly and we meet many muslim students on the streets of Bordeaux.

At Easter a mission team will come from Mission Vacances to work with the student outreach and with the church from 14th to 21st April. We hope to hold exhibitions, to have open meetings with talks, maybe to have a gospel concert and to do lots of street evangelism. Meanwhile there's LOTS of preparations to do !

Speaking of things being open, you probably heard about the storm that hit us. It was a scary Saturday. The roof is fixed now, paid for very efficiently by the insurance, though the neighbours have yet to rebuild their garden fences. But it's an ill wind that blows no good, as they say, and this new open landscape has helped everyone get to know each other better, including a communal shed-build and Alan being told about all the protestant families in the area. There's a number of houses we need to call on. Perhaps an Easter barbecue with talk ?

There are so many opportunities here, with so much to be done. As well as our services in Blaye there are other satellite towns where we have church members - homes where Bible studies and discussion groups could easily take place.

You'll be glad to know that Pat's had no further sciatica problems. Alan's had a bad month of asthma with reactions to various stimuli. The children continue well, though.

There are difficulties, though. For workers in France at the moment the strength of the euro is a big issue. This is leading us to think seriously about the student centre premises and whether there are more cost-effective options. Not only that but we Daveys need to see our support increase quite considerably. We are thankful that the shortfall is not as great as it could be, considering that the pound has fallen from about 1€60 when we first came here to almost 1€ now. However we do need to find additional supporters and so Alan will be returning to Britain for probably two trips this year - the first from around May 7th to 25th. God willing, he'll begin at the UFM conference in Ireland and finish up with the AECW Assembly in Newtown. In between he's hoping to speak in churches and groups about the work, so please get in touch if you would like a visit.

Thank you for your faithful prayers.

Every blessing,

Alan, Pat, Gwilym & Catrin

To start or stop receiving this prayer letter, or to change your address please either contact by e-mail phil.harman@harpeople.net, or fill in this slip and return it to:

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

Please send the Daveys' prayer letter to:

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, 145 Faringdon Rd, Swindon, Wilts. SN1 5DL