



After the service at the Centre Albert Peyriguère

Daveys in France

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*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures for ever
(Psalm 136)*

Dear friends and supporters,

Firstly we apologise for the late arrival of this prayer letter. In theory it is due in October, but November is a better time to send something out, so next year we won't apologise - we'll just accept November as the norm from now on.

We are all well and at full steam after a busy period of all sorts of things :

The summer went well - we spent a lovely fortnight in the Creuse department where there seem to be more cows than people. The children enjoyed the activities that the local government laid on - fishing Tom Sawyer style, rafting down the river. Pat and Alan enjoyed reading our friends' English books on the beaches of the lakes.

Then back to Bordeaux to preach through August, which went fine, with congregations basically staying pretty good - our smallest number was twenty-something. One week we had no accompanist but we sang all the better to make up for it.

Then the restart of the student term. This year we were ready. Very ready ! At the start of September we had tracts ready, questionnaires printed, even little notices to post. But the students didn't come back till October, so we had the opportunity to post notices on the notice boards of the campus (lots of campus, lots of notices, lots of walking !) and some students have contacted us through seeing these.

The restart has gone well, with unbelievers coming to the centre. One Chinese girl professed faith following the visit of Apple, a Chinese student from WEST in South Wales. Pray for more conversions and for more individual Bible studies.

Then came the UFM European Conference at Lloret de Mar in Spain. It's a tough job, but someone has to do it. The Daveys were the French delegation this year, and it was a useful time.

Then the Pastorale Nationale (pastors' conference) of the fellowship of churches we are linked with. This was in the Cévennes, a beautiful region but 7 hours drive away. Again this was a very useful time, especially for the personal contacts and the understanding of how things stand in the churches.

MPEF (UFM in France) held its AGM in Bordeaux and this was useful for clarifying lots of things, like setting a budget for the student centre and so on.

I said that we're all well - we *were* all well - till Pat decided to move the freezer about a fortnight ago and put her back out. At present we are dithering between giving it more time and seeing another doctor.

How is the work ?

The Young people's meeting has begun to do Christianity Explored, translated into French and not yet even published ! We meet on alternate Sunday mornings. Please pray for these youngsters that God will bless the studies.

In the church Alan is preaching once or twice a month, and also in Blaye. He's working through Ephesians, not too slowly, he hopes.

We've seen some new people come to the church. *Vincent* came to faith in the USA and when he returned to Bordeaux his new fiancée found the church through our blog. They plan to marry in April, so that's a whole new family ! *Cédric*, a mechanic, started coming in the summer and seems settled with us. *Laurence* came with her parents and they seem settled. Our Chinese corner is growing, too.

Alan is still doing the English classes at the centre. Thank God for the Muslim women who come and happily read through Acts. We are also studying Acts in the student Bible studies on Thursday evenings, and we're thankful for unbelieving students who come along. Pray especially for *Gauvin*, who asks lots of questions. Pray that he will soon come to faith.

The conference centre where the church meets is great, but it is not very accessible except by car *and* it is due to be demolished in July 2008 to build houses. Also we have to meet on Sunday afternoons, but this gives the opportunity to visit some of the other churches in Bordeaux and see how things stand. So the meeting place saga continues.

The prayer meeting is currently held at the student centre, but it is possible that the church will hold two prayer meetings, one for the right bank people and one for the left bank, and our home may become the centre for that. In fact, our home may become more and more important because it is one meeting place we can be sure of !

The next couple of weeks will be busy for the church, we are hosting the regional church officers' meeting the weekend of the 25th and at the same time an American children's choir is coming to sing a pre-Christmas programme with gospel talks between. We are using this choir on the 26th for an English language evening to try to reach the Anglophones of Bordeaux. Please pray for the weekend - it will be BUSY and yesterday several of us realised that we have to be in two places at the same time. So what's new ? Also please pray for the publicity for the English evening. Alan plans to put flyers in the pubs (there's lots!), bookshop, language schools, consulates, etc, during the coming weeks.

Que Dieu vous bénisse !

Alan, Pat, Gwilym & Catrin

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