



Daveys in France

N° 23, October 2010

Alan & Pat Davey

14b Rue Pérès,

33600 Pessac, France

alandavey@gmail.com

www.daveys2france.blogspot.com

"Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold." 2 Corinthians 3 : 12

Dear friends,

Alan is writing this from a France hit by strikes. It doesn't touch us much here in Bordeaux, though some of the fuel stations are shut and I think people are panic buying firewood! Meanwhile for us it shows the desperation and hopelessness of life in an empty universe ruled by chance where nothing reigns. *Without God and without hope in the world.* What a privilege to share the only true message of real hope.

Well our summer expedition to Britain proved eventful. Our car broke down with a repeat of the clutch cable problem not once but twice, the second time needing the entire mechanism replaced again. It meant that we missed the UFM Family Conference and our 5-year review meeting but we were able to spend more time with the folk in North Wales which we appreciated greatly. Missing the 5-year review means that strictly speaking we are in France without permission but we think the mission knows we are here.

Meanwhile things move on quickly. The church is now owner of a massive premises right by the Jean Jaurès tram stop in Cenon. We very much see the hand of God in this and feel the privilege and responsibility of using this great opportunity to spread the gospel. We need to apply for change of use planning permission and hope to move into the building in December. Further transformation will be scheduled as funds allow, but watch out - we had nothing when we bought the building and we have nothing now, so things could move fast !



New folk continue to come to the services and the work in Blaye is progressing, too, though we have not yet been able to begin the services in the town centre. We still aim to do this as soon as we can. We are also starting much needed preachers' workshops.

In the French services Alan has taken a break from Ephesians to talk about meeting Jesus, from John 9, John 4, John 3, etc. In the English services he's started preaching through Judges.

The student work this year is marked by the presence a super gang of helpers; Simon, Katie, Robyn, Mark, etc... great folk who bring a certain effervescence to things. The biggest innovation so far is the Café Théologique at a café in central Bordeaux. The first one on *Time* went very well. The second is planned for next Tuesday, entitled *Seul dans la foule* - alone in the crowd. There's a good attendance in the English classes, Alan and Mark have 15 students in the advanced group. Mark is from Northern Ireland and our goal is *to learn youse-uns to talk tidy*. Please pray for good relationships to develop and for opportunities to talk about salvation, in French or English! Surveys on campus, Bible studies, all need prayer.

Another innovation this year is that we are vacating the Student Centre after December. This means that we have to find venues for the English Classes, for the Bible Studies and also for the Chinese Christian Group. The latter is going well this year with about 16 regulars and a good spirit. Please pray that we seize all the opportunities that will be brought by our new life *sans domicile fixe* - without fixed abode.

Pat continues to meet up with women to read, study, talk and pray, one to one and in small groups, in English and in French. A group of English speaking women are reading *Seeing and Savouring Jesus Christ* together. With a French friend she's reading *Walk Worthy* by Peter Jeffery, recently translated into French. Please pray that this work will be fruitful.

Then there's other activities which are important. Alan's chapel duty in the local high school continues, with up to 20 children coming in for at least a while during the lunch-hour. Please pray for wisdom and skill in encouraging the kids to seek salvation. The Christian Bookshop in the centre of town is undergoing a big change, to be run by a group of churches, and Alan is helping on the committee to organise the change. The newly-formed National Council for the Evangelicals of France has a local group, and Alan is representing foreign missionaries on that committee. Thankfully all take place within ½ hour drive, but still that's enough. Oh yes, he's also on the committee of the local music school. All helps with meeting people and provoking the question, "So what brought you to France?"

Alan had the sad privilege of officiating at the funeral of an elderly lady we'd met just a few months ago. She died very suddenly and sadly her death has left her son homeless. Please pray for Didier, that he'll soon be on an even keel. Please pray also for those who heard the hope of the resurrection preached in the cemetery.

In the family we're all OK. Gwilym seems to enjoy his new course, though his day is long. He leaves the house before 7am and returns after 6pm most days. Catrin is doing fine. We all have continual colds but so does everyone else. We don't think everyone gets them from us.

And our 5-year review ? It is scheduled for 29th November. We have yet to work out if we can travel back to Britain for that or if it will need to be conducted by the wonders of teleconferencing (Skype). Please pray for this important meeting which is so decisive for our lives.

Now and again we are hit by this sense of amazement that we are here in the needy South-West of France, speaking about Jesus Christ to folks, most of whom have never heard the gospel explained reasonably or met a real Christian. How on earth has this been possible ? By your prayers and your support, in the hands of our heavenly Father. Amazing. Thank you so much for your part in making the work here possible.

Every blessing,

Alan, Pat, Gwilym & Catrin

Contact regarding the prayer letter :
Mr P Harman, 14 Eaton Ave, Connah's Quay, Flintshire. CH5 4HR
e-mail phil.harman@harpeople.net.

Contact re. financial support directly to:
UFM Worldwide, 145 Faringdon Rd, Swindon, Wilts. SN1 5DL