

# Le Pavillon

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*Building bridges ...*



## ***2 Corinthians 5:19 (NLT)***

Please pray for this maturing family of ours as the children grow up far from our UK relatives and friends. The march towards adulthood and independence sees Emily (24) married and living in Lyon (8 hrs away), and Joe (22) living in Le Mans (1 hr away), for studies. Having Philippe (15) and Reuben (10) at home allows us to continue holidaying together, and camping is our favourite method. This year they are all finishing their respective levels of education and launching into new phases in life.

..... continued

**Autumn 2008**

## CHEZ SMALLEY



Reuben is doing OK as he finishes primary school. His passion for ball sports is dampened by physical difficulties with his feet, so we got him into the swimming club! This year he wants to explore his 'penchant' for drawing and painting with a local club. His studies in World War history have had an impact on his wardrobe this year even down to camouflage slippers and underpants!

Philippe is more than happy to be finishing his secondary education but has many more hours of classroom ahead in preparing to become a carpenter. His first work experience has been a useful confirmation of direction. We pray for his friendships with his peer group for the future. He's committed and still enjoying church activity but we pray he will enjoy the Lord ever more deeply. Otherwise model making and mountain bike clubs keep him sharp and (usually) away from a screen!

Joe is close to finishing university and we think he has collected enough diplomas to make that vital move into active life. Computer programming is the career he's worked well towards, so pray that the transition will be successfully made. At other times you will find him lost in music, either on his own or in a band, playing drum, guitar, piano or composing. He is covered by an extra dose of prayer for his stability in relationships and personal faith in Jesus.

Emily is learning to juggle marriage, missions and uni studies very well. She also will finish studies to follow through her work experiences with immigrants and the socially deprived to teach French as a foreign language. This all fits in with 'hubby' Joël 's co-ordination of 'Christians in Sport' mission around France.

## DOING LE PAV

Determined to work with what we had, in terms of an 'almost finished' site this season, Le Pavillon has functioned well to receive many visitors from different horizons for different purposes. But they all came with one aim, to get closer to God.



The stable block, made to sleep 12, was transformed into dormitories receiving weekend groups up to 30 in number. Camps for children and young adults were a great success for the local churches that used us. A South African group was on a mission of intercessory prayer for France, but **we** were also mightily blessed by their presence. Day retreats were run for a church men's group, and the place became a training camp for an English 'Christians in Football' team as they worked in mission in our area. As the residential couple, our hotel and catering skills were well employed and our burden eased by some voluntary help at times. The rhythm and programme varied as we received several couples and singles on personal retreat where things are 'tailor-made' to the needs of each person.



The combination of rest, prayer, counselling and good food seems to help our guests onto the next stage of their walk with the Lord.

In the midst of this activity, over a period of time we continue to accompany individual French Christians in listening, prayer and counselling as they come to Le Pavillon. No two cases are the same but we see the same overruling grace of God working in these damaged lives, leading them into restoration and release. They have all been ladies this year, so our working together as a man and wife team has been vital.

Having become close to a committed catholic farming family, it was great to accompany Irene, the wife through baptism. God is mightily at work in this family and it will not be without consequence in our local area. She's



already had some serious talks with Maurice, the priest of our parish. We prepare ourselves as her evangelist's heart draws others towards the Lord!

## SHAPING LE PAV

In the Lord's grace a supporter's large anonymous donation this spring gave the Stable Block a 'BIG PUSH' towards completion of fitting out and decoration after what seems a long haul. Putting the stable block fully into service remains the key to Le Pavillon being able to receive guests in self-contained comfort. Part of our role here is one of builder. Work teams are less frequent now, so we continue on with a full programme of renovation, decoration and maintenance that more than fills the gaps in our week.



We still need to raise further donations to fully furnish and equip the Stable Block, and we will be launching that as a separate campaign very soon. Our attention now turns towards completing the phase one farmhouse renovations that have remained on the 'back burner' for some time. Whilst the major building work is completed, both internal and external finishing is needed before decoration.

Our associates and leaders continue to help us develop and give shape to the administration, organisation and legal profile of Le Pavillon. Your intercession is vital at this point that we would closely follow God's plan and develop the services according to His will. By God's grace Debbie and I have the support of a small but devoted group of UK and French Christians that faithfully persevere in service with us to complete Le Pavillon Vision. We acknowledge also the slow but sure building up of network of connections and partnering in the Body of Christ. It surely is a story of being 'over-comers'!

## CHURCH STUFF

Our service within the local churches is the 'oil in the motor' of missionary endeavour. We acknowledge the happy fraternal relations with Angers Baptist Church where we are able to serve in the Sunday School and the 'Reconciliation Group' which helps Christians in difficulty by listening and praying. We are given the opportunity to preach and teach amongst different church groups in the west of France, and we enjoy working in small group workshops on aspects of restoration and inner healing for the Body of Christ.

Our involvement in the La Flèche group, which draws together isolated rural Christians, aims to keep people 'going and growing'. We are considering opening up a further home group at Le Pavillon which would cater for new people and give focus to the activity from La Flèche.

Although we did come in April and July to visit UK churches, we are keenly aware that our visits to our link church fellowships in the UK are becoming less frequent. We seek the Lord's confirmation on whether we should 'put down our tools' and travel to the UK more often or spend more time in developing communications by internet, a 'virtual link' so to speak.

Whilst we are in the process of getting the balance right, we thank God for each one of you who have invested in God's work in France through the Smalleys over the years. Many of you have been faithful partners over the 18 years we have been in missions. We feel privileged that you choose to continue to run the course with us through your friendship, interest, prayers and financial support as we work out our calling to France and Le Pavillon Retreat Centre.



## **BE A PRAY-ER**

**Please pray for ...**

- ... the family**
- ... the project**
- ... the vision**
- ... the fellowship**
- ... the guests**
- ... funding**

## **BE A CONTRIBUTOR BE A TEAM WORKER**



**Building bridges ...**



***In the light of the love of God  
and his purposes, seeking to reconcile  
people to themselves, their past  
and their future***

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