



# PRAISE!



(Peter and Rachel's Adventures in St-Étienne)

May 2010

Two weddings...

**Audrey and Julien** are getting married in August. It has been a privilege to work with them on marriage preparation as they get ready for life as a couple in God's service. You may remember that Audrey was one of the core group who has been with us from the start of the church in 2006, and has been a blessing to us through her passion for God, her gifts for leading worship, song writing and evangelism. We have very much appreciated getting to know Julien too, his willingness to serve and learn as a preacher as well as to use his musical gifts.

Please pray for this couple as they set out on the adventure of married life... that God would guide them and show them in what capacities they can best serve his glory (They will be moving to the Paris area). Pray that God would protect them as a couple : they are people who have real potential to be effective leaders and be greatly used for the glory of His name in this nation. Pray too for their wedding day (Pete will be taking the service), and particularly for their witness to family and friends who don't know Jesus.

**V and G** are friends of ours who are not church goers. G comes from an ultra-traditional catholic family, V's Mum is a member at the Firminy church. They have also asked us to accompany them as they prepare for their wedding on 8<sup>th</sup> August. Please pray for us as we seek to support them and to take up this special opportunity they have offered us to speak into their lives.

If you could ask God one question...

In cooperation with another church locally which has students and young people at heart, we put together two apologetics evenings in a local bar (Le Picadilly Circus! *sic*) at the end of April. In the weeks beforehand, church members asked their friends what for them was the main issue that would need to be addressed if they were to consider the Christian faith. We also went out into the streets around the university campus and asked people we met. The top responses (which became the themes for the evening debates) were classics: "How can I know God exists?" "Why is Christian morality so outdated?" "If there is a God, why all this suffering?" Both the Christians and the four or five unbelievers present seemed to find the evenings thought-provoking and useful.



Passover Meal

Following a suggestion from Alexandra, one of the girls at church, we decided to organise a Pesach (Passover meal) at Easter. When we contacted Jews for Jesus to ask for some information they offered to send us a speaker. The Baptist Church came in on the plan too, and despite it having all been a rather last minute idea, it turned into a big dinner with about 70 people, including a number of guests who don't attend church. Please pray in particular for an Indian couple who also came to our Easter Sunday service and seemed attracted by the figure of Jesus Christ.



Living it...

We have been touched and challenged this week by the love and courage of **Lydie and Marian**, a young couple at church (Marian's the guy!). They have taken in a Roma family who were kicked out of the squat where they living. Please pray for **Anka** and **Joseph** and their two little kids, **Denis** and **Denisa**. Anka is a Christian, but we are not sure where her husband stands. Pray too for God's blessing and protection on Lydie and Marian, and their little boy Timotée.

Burkina partnership

Keith and Lynn Smith, who are our main link with the church we partner with in Tasmakatt, Burkina Faso, are coming to visit over the last weekend in May. As well as participating in our Sunday service, they will be speaking at an interchurch youth event on the Saturday. Please ask God to show us more of his heart and purpose through Keith and Lynn's visit... pray that we would be challenged and changed, and that we would also have opportunities to encourage Keith and Lynn in the challenging ministry God has given them among the Fulani.

Family On the Home Front

Anna is three now. She relished the four nights away camping we enjoyed in April, paddling in the river, exploring castles and Roman ruins. Sophie is nearly 17 months, likes jokes and is learning to make her requests for various food items increasingly specific... even if all animals still say "woof" most of the time. We are excited to be expecting a new baby in October and would appreciate your prayers for a safe pregnancy.



Suggestions for prayer

- ✦ Evangelism is a battle. Please pray for perseverance and God honouring fruit... for us, and for the church as a whole
- ✦ Pray for God's guidance and provision concerning our financial situation
- ✦ Thank God for Lydie and Marian and others in the church who are reaching out in costly love to those around us. Pray for Christ's resurrection power to be at work through them.
- ✦ Pray that whether married or single, all of us would put God's glory first in our lives, our relationships and our decisions. Pray especially for Julien and Audrey and for Nadine and Nicholas who are seeking to build their future marriages on the rock that is Christ.
- ✦ **28<sup>th</sup> May** : Neighbourhood party in our block. Please pray for God's grace on our neighbourhood!
- ✦ **10<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> July** : Pete leading summer outreach team in Savoy, "Operation Right to Know"



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If you want to receive more regular news and prayer points from us, you can sign up for our fortnightly *Little update from St Etienne* email messages.

Simply write to us at the e-mail address above. If you want to know more about France Mission, why not visit the website [www.france-mission.org](http://www.france-mission.org) or call the British office on 01453 884454? France Mission is a registered charity in the UK. Gifts can be sent to France Mission Trust, The Old Chapel, Chapel Lane, Minchinhampton, Glos, GL6 9DL.