

("Peter and Rachel's Adventures in St-Étienne" or "Peter, Rachel, Anna, Inès & Sophie's Epistle"?)

September 2011

No enduring City

« Jesus also suffered outside the city gate, to make the people holy through his own blood. Let us then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come. » Hebrews 13.12-14

We love living in St-Etienne. Great people, great place to live, great challenges as we pursue the adventure of being part of God's amazing plan to build his Church here. But in this new school year, we want to remember that this is not our lasting home. We need to keep our eyes fixed on the Eternal City, and be willing to be rejected and despised by people here when loyalty to Jesus demands it.



This is a recurring prayer request, and maybe you think we must be a bit wimpy. OK, we are a bit wimpy. But please pray for us to be bold in our witness. It's so easy to be people-pleasers, and to avoid saying things which might upset or offend people. Whether it's in relationships with other parents at school, with friends at language café or at the Fair Trade shop, pray that we would remember Jesus' sacrifice and be willing to « go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. » For love of Him, and for the love of the people of this earthly city. How we long that they too would become citizens of heaven!

Church on the move

Those of you familiar with French culture will know the importance of « La Rentrée » or the start up of the new school year after the August break.

- Please pray for the new **house group** starting at Norbert and Annie's house and another probably at Jean-Marc and Julie's house (The photo at the top of this page is of Julie and daughter Iona!)
- We'll be going away for our Church Weekend 23rd-25th September. A friend who is a pastor in central France, **Aimé Weber**, will be teaching us from the book of Haggai, helping us to get our priorities right for the year ahead.
- We asked you last time to pray about the possibility of starting a **Children's Neighbourhood Bible Club**. Christiane, a teacher who has many years of experience in children's ministry, is taking early retirement in December, and we and she are excited about the possibilities this opens up. In the intervening time we will be praying and talking about the details of what and where and when.
- We are in discussion with various banks about a loan to **purchase the premises** we have been renting since 2009. The congregation here is now in a position to be able to fund a monthly mortgage repayment of 400€, but we need to get together a lump sum of around 14,000€ (gifts or loans). Let us know if you feel God may be leading you to contribute to that. More details on request.

Going places for the Kingdom

From the time the church started in 2006, we have been praying that God would help us to become a community with a global vision for the coming of God's Kingdom. One way God is answering our prayers in this area is that a number of key people have a desire to step out in faith to serve God outside their comfort zone. We are so excited!

Emeline (on the left in choir photo) leaves on 26th September for a six month Discipleship Training School with YWAM, (3 months in Lausanne, 1 ½ months in a country yet to be announced)

Sylvie (in the middle) leaves also on 26th September for a nine month programme of Bible School and evangelism with Gospel Tribe based in Germany.

Gladys (on the right) heads of to Nepal in October for a three week mission serving the River People.



Jean-Marc and Julie, with Natanel (4yrs) Iona (2yrs) and Swane (Born 19th August) are planning a trip to visit our partner church in a Fulani village in Northern Burkina Faso in February. They are in discussion with Keith and Lynne Smith, long-term workers in the region, (<http://www.undertheacacias-blog.org.uk/>) about how Jean-Marc can use his building skills to serve in the local community, and there are some evangelistic children's clubs on the cards too. Jean-Marc is now self-employed, so their plan is to go out for a month each year...with a possible view to moving out long-term one day, who knows? More details to follow, but please pray! This is something they have had on their hearts for a long time, but they really want to do things in God's way and in God's timing. We would ask you to pray particularly for Julie's family who aren't Christians and don't really understand why anyone would want to take these kind of risks with small children.

Youth work update

All five of us participated in a camp for 11-16 year olds in August. Pete was speaker for the older group. There were some challenging moments... but also some fantastic gospel opportunities. It was great to see **Gwendo**, who became a Christian on the camp in 2009, back as a leader and growing in her faith. One newly-married leader from Grenoble, **Audrey**, impressed us with her loving commitment and perseverance with two particularly bolshy teenage girls in her group. Audrey had been a camper on the first ever camp we worked on as a newly married couple in 2004! (She wasn't particularly bolshy though, I hasten to add.)

Pete will continue this year to be part of the team for « Défi » the termly youth events which bring together young people from six churches in St-Etienne and the surrounding area. Rachel is rejoining the team that runs a smaller weekly Saturday evening group which includes four teenagers from St-Etienne South (**Marie, Simon-Pierre, Justine et Cloé**). Please pray that these events and groups would be of real service to the young people in their life of discipleship, and that we would see those who are already Christians reaching out to their friends in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Calverts large and small

Some of you will remember that Inès our 3rd daughter, had to be delivered by emergency c-section 5 ½ weeks early because of a heart rhythm problem. Although this recurred several times after birth, she has been doing well on medication and will soon be one. She is little but wonderful and we praise God for her! The doctors' plan is to stop her medication shortly and to continue monitoring to see whether her heart is now able to function normally by itself. Thanks so much to those who are praying for her... God bless you!

Sophie (who will be 3 in December) is the joker of the family and will be starting nursery school (*l'école maternelle*) for the first time this term. Anna (4½) is enjoying being back for her second year. She is more reserved and studious and sometimes takes herself a little bit too seriously – don't know where she gets that from!

Thank you for praying for us! Please keep us up to date with your news and prayer requests too.

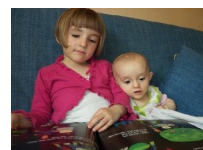
There is so much more to tell you, but it will have to wait!

Love from Peter, Rachel, Anna, Sophie and Inès

Games Corner (It's been a while, hasn't it?)

Can you unjumble these quotations and attribute each of them to the correct member of the Calvert family ? Answers on a postcard please!

1. Peter: "Ga ga ga areuh areuh"
2. Rachel: "Now, children, tell me what you can see in this picture. That's right, the Cow jumps over the Moon. Now, do you think that's right, to jump over the moon, or do you think it's disobedient?"
3. Inès: "Would you like a cup of tea?"
4. Sophie: "I love Anna. She's nice and she's pretty as well."
5. Anna: "It's not a game, Sophie, you need to do what you're told."



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