



John, Sue, Robina, Jessie, Tommy and Bonnie Wilson

61 rue Sainte Anne de Baraban, 69003 Lyon, France

Tel: 00 33 0478 53 66 04

E-mail: leswilson@wanadoo.fr

Prayer Letter July 2006

We've come to the end of an exciting and exhausting school year. Here are some of the highlights from the last six months:

February

John and Sue visited their old church at Bron. For those of you who remember, this mainly African community was unable to support a pastor and the French Baptist home mission (MIB) felt no longer able to continue the work. God however provided for them, through a Congolese pastor who had left the ministry. Today there are 40 people meeting regularly together and we are looking at how to help this church establish itself. We also enjoyed an excellent holiday in the Alps with grandparents.

March

Sadly we had to say goodbye to our dog who had become aggressive towards children. We took part in a European satellite mission with the German evangelist Ulrich Parzany. It was great to see new Christians enthusiastically inviting their friends. It was a challenge to those more established in their faith, to see that God could do good things even through means that they would not necessarily choose.

April

We celebrated Easter with a family service and singing that would wake the dead! John took two weeks to visit some of our link churches and attend the Baptist Assembly in Brighton. During this period Bonnie, following a bad bout of flu, became seriously ill with acute arthritis. Thankfully after five weeks of high temperatures and pain, the virus was beaten and no serious long-term effects seem likely.

May

Our teenagers – les Sherpas – once again removed all the benches from the church for an evening of *atoivoir* (have a look on the internet for the link to Agapé). Nearly two thirds of those present were school friends. The young people performed their own songs, dance, sketch and



testimonies. Sue worked hard to bring this about, but it was a great boost to faith and commitment to see it happen.

June

This was the month of Jessica's baccalauréat as well as a crucial time for Tommy and Robina as they acquired the necessary permission in the French system to continue their studies next year.

We concluded *L'Evangile pour Tous* a four-month evangelistic campaign involving 20 churches from around the city. With the German evangelist, Ulrich Parzany in person, we saw anything between 600 and 1,600 people attending the seven meetings held in the big top!

In the same month we baptised four people at church followed by a picnic in the park. Briefly here are their testimonies:

Jean-Philippe came to church around the time of our satellite-evangelism in March. After what can only be described as being set free from an evil spirit, he was clearly filled with the presence of Christ. His quiet assurance of salvation is remarkable.

Tahiry saw his wife Dina baptised about three years ago. He is doing post-graduate studies and had a lot of questions to work through, before making a public confession of his faith. As a discrete but committed couple they are a joy to have in the fellowship.

Marit was born in eastern Germany and knew no

Christians apart from her grandmother. Encouraged to have two abortions because of financial hardship, she began a search for God and forgiveness. She came to our church nearly two years ago and has steadily grown in faith and confidence.

Tayfun is Marit's husband. He used to be a member of the national orchestra of Turkey. He came to Lyons to train in music therapy. As a Muslim he always had enormous respect for Jesus, but it is only as he began to come to church with his wife that he began to understand and put his trust in Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

July

Eighteen Sherpas went away for an end of year weekend. Sue and the other leaders came home thrilled and thoroughly worn out. Jessica astounded us with her baccalauréat results. Her parents are still in shock and admiration. At the moment she is still thinking of following through on her offer to study English at Reading, whilst other options are being considered.

We are all looking forward to a summer break. In September the Council of the European Baptist Federation are meeting in Lyons. We ask you also to pray for the successful preparation of this event.

*Yours in Christ,
John & Sue Wilson*

BMS World Mission supports over 320 personnel working in more than 40 countries of the world. Together they are involved mainly in church planting, development, disaster relief, education, health and media and advocacy.

John and Sue are BMS personnel working in France. They are pastoring a church in Lyons.

If you would like to know more about BMS and its work, please visit our website, or write, phone or e-mail us. Details at bottom right-hand corner of this page.

This prayer letter is now available via our website. Register online on

www.bmsworldmission.org/jswilson

to receive an e-mail alert for future letters from John and Sue



PO Box 49 129 Broadway
Didcot Oxfordshire OX11 8XA
Tel: 01235 517700
Fax: 01235 517601

E-mail: prayerletters@bmsworldmission.org
Website: www.bmsworldmission.org
Registered charity number 233782