

France Action Team

c/o Reuben and Katie Martin, Le Presbytere,
50 Rue Albert Camus, 76100 Rouen, France
E-mail: franceactionteam@bmsworldmission.org
www.bmsworldmission.org/actionteams

Prayer Letter February 2009

Bonjour tout le monde! Ça va?

First of all we hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year! A big thank you to everyone for thinking about us and keeping us in your prayers this Christmas – we had a fantastic time.

It was a very interesting and definitely different Christmas to what we were used to. On Christmas Eve we went rock-climbing and played table tennis, followed by a meal cooked by one of our youth group, including sushi, sweet and sour and tiramisu!

On Christmas Day we went to Reuben and Katie Martin's house where we ate our fill (and more!) of traditional Christmas food, and of course we played all the usual Christmas games. We are so lucky to be working with such a kind and generous family, not only for them to offer to feed four hungry teenagers but also to allow us to spend the day with them; it made us feel really at home and helped us to have a great Christmas experience.

So what are we up to now? Well, we're now three months into our time here in Rouen, and the workload is getting heavier than ever before, starting with two days of 'Gospelkidz' over the weekend of 20 December. The first part of Saturday's 'Gospelkidz' was spent outside in the



'H-block' where, first of all, we, as leaders, had the delightful task of cleaning the area of rubbish. Afterwards, the girls played parachute games and the boys played football, before returning to the church, where the kids were given roles and costumes (which we had found and tailored) for the nativity play that was to be performed the next day, at the 'Fête de Noël'.

The next day was the 'Fête de Noël'. The kids sang Christmas songs for the parents, performed a dance they'd been practising for the past couple of weeks, and put on a nativity play, followed by a Christmas message by Reuben. It was a great afternoon/evening, made even better by the fact that a Muslim family who came along seemed to be really enthusiastic about the event. Afterwards, when we all went carol singing around the estate they let their kids come with us, and when we sang outside their house they came out to hear us sing. Please keep praying that more families would be so enthusiastic about the work the church is doing on the estate, and that we would see families coming into the church and coming to know Jesus.

After the 'Gospelkidz' weekend came Christmas and New Year, followed by a week on holiday in the town of Morzine, near the Swiss border, in the Alps. The scenery was spectacular; snow-covered Alps against a crystal blue sky – what could be better! It really made us appreciate how beautiful God's creation really is. We had a great time playing in the snow and it was really nice being able to see other parts of France, as well as just having a week to relax.



As soon as we got back work began, distributing leaflets and putting up posters for both our new youth group and English classes, which we've just started. Having been given English teaching books and being taught how to teach the classes by Katie, we had our first lesson with adults on Tuesday 20 January, and we also took a class for kids on the Saturday. They went really well and we were really pleased as beforehand we were quite worried about them as we've never taught before. Please pray that people continue to sign up for lessons, and that we come to know more people in this area through these classes.

Friday 16 January marked our first youth group at the church, called 'Racines', aimed at kids aged 11-15 years-old. It was a great success, and the kids had a great time, playing ping-pong, board games and Twister (which is so much more confusing in French!). We're so grateful to God for having provided everything we needed to get this event off the ground, from gifts for a table tennis table, to two excellent conditioned sofas brought to the church by our friends from Le Gospel church, free of charge and without any previous notice that they would be coming! Please pray for more of God's miraculous provision as we continue building relationships with the youth on this estate, and that they will come to know more about Jesus through contact with the church from 'Racines' and 'Gospelkidz'.



Thank you all once again for your continued support in prayer. Thanks for reading our blog and prayer letters, and keeping up-to-date with what is happening here and our work.

Que Dieu vous bénisse!

Matt, Catrin, Katherine and Beckie
France Action Team

Prayer Points:

- Continued good team relations, now that we're in the second half of our time here
- English teaching; prayer that we are able to teach effectively and that people will enjoy the lessons, and keep coming.
- The new Youth Club: that new kids will come, that they will be interested in learning about Christianity, and that we will be able to answer their questions.
- More opportunities for contact with the local community.
- Upcoming events in the church, including baptisms and redecorating the main church hall.

BMS World Mission supports 350 personnel working in more than 34 countries of the world. Together they are involved mainly in church planting, development, disaster relief, education, health and media and advocacy. BMS Action Teams are working with local churches and social action projects. If you would like to know more about BMS and its work, please visit our website, or write, phone or e-mail us. Details are at bottom right-hand corner of this page.