

In putting together a new website (www.e-shofar.com) I realise that it's high time I write another newsletter. As always I don't think there's much to say until I refer to where we were when we wrote our last letter... then I realise there's too much to say to put on two sides of A4, which is my goal.... Should I write smaller??!! Anyway, here goes...

House of Refuge

There have been several major changes of circumstances in the past few months. At our last time of writing a newsletter we were looking for a "house of refuge" to buy, and we had several criteria which believe were of the Lord. Properties meeting these criteria were rare especially in the precise region in which we were looking. And then one day we found a house – an old farmhouse in need of considerable refurbishment, and it was part owned by a Christian. We wrote to many of you about it believing that God would miraculously provide the finances as he has done many times before for things, although not quite on this scale... but then with God, all things are possible... A miracle happened, but not the one which we were expecting – we received NOTHING towards the house. (Soon after we faced extraordinary financial pressures about which we wrote to many of you... and the LORD provided through many of you. Thanks to you and God.) So what about the house? We found ourselves, once again, doing much soul-searching. Had we missed God's leading? Were we in disobedience? Was the enemy blocking the flow of monies? We are now persuaded that circumstances changed and the Lord is now going to proceed with us differently. These changes came about by various decisions that were taken, not necessarily by us... as I say frequently, every choice we make has consequences not only on us but on those around us as well, and some consequences can be far-reaching. So, for the moment, this project is on hold.. and we are seeking new direction, the vision for houses of refuge remains however.

Monies over Christmas

As I have just mentioned we have been fighting many battles, many of which centre on finances. I was talking with a fellow Christian today to whom I had mentioned our financial situation a few days earlier. He was quite insistent that people should be supporting the work that we do – he has

seen it first-hand and has benefited from our ministry. ...”and if we want to see this work continue then we should be willing to support it financially...”. I did not like to point out that he didn't support us financially!

Unfortunately this is the situation which we face – many people support us verbally extolling the virtue of our ministry “..in this very difficult spiritual climate”; very few actually support us financially. For that reason Mike has had to sign on as unemployed and seriously consider taking full-time employment. This would significantly reduce the amount of time we could spend meeting with people, studying the Bible, counselling and teaching. It seems that just when we start seeing a result from our work with new doors opening, new opportunities for the gospel, we are going to be prevented from continuing. This we see as a work of the enemy. However, to combat this we need to see more people partner with us financially, not merely verbally. Sometimes there is a responsibility to act. If the lord is prompting you to be a part with us in the ministry please contact us. (More details can be found on our new-look website)

Church – Grignon

This is the part that is difficult to write... We worked with this group of believers for just over three years and it was with great sadness that we have had to pull out from this group. We do not, for obvious reasons, want to discuss these reasons in an open newsletter, suffice to say that we took position on some doctrinal issues which in our view were leading the church into error. Our argument was not entertained or even discussed, it was immediately rejected by the leader in question. This made continuing to work with this leader impossible for us so we withdrew from the church. We still maintain good open relationships with many of the members. This does, however, free us up to concentrate fully on the new church-plant in the Maurienne.

Church – Maurienne

The group in the Maurienne has faced a very testing time not the least because of differences in denominational background. Others have also experienced family problems which have weighed heavily upon them. It is so obvious that we are already experiencing significant resistance from the enemy – not surprising given that he has



Mike and Donna Spencer

6 Avenue Victor Hugo
73200 Albertville
FRANCE



0033 (0)4 79 32 74 91



mike.donna@e-shofar.com

www.e-shofar.com

Working with the church in France

held sway over this part of France for so long. We were hoping to work with another missionary couple in this venture but due to denominational constraints they have felt led to pursue work elsewhere. This leaves us as the main organisational and driving force behind this venture, something which we were not bargaining on – and something that we have not done before. Please pray for continued protection for the group, us especially, and for the Lord's guidance and wisdom as we seek to knit this group together into an active part of the body of Christ.

We have meetings now in a hall in the centre of St Jean once a month and weekly prayer meetings. We are looking to start a Bible study for everyone involved in the group to build relationships and give a forum for discussion of denominational differences promoting understanding of each other and the biblical standpoint on these issues.

Newlook website

As I've mentioned it, I'll just say a couple of words about it... It's new and we hope to make it a forum for discussion for spiritual questions especially those related to our work, so we'd love to get your comments online. Again for this to work, we need your input! www.e-shofar.com. Donna's got a blog as well... www.e-shofar.com/donna/

Travels and Events

Christmas saw us in our apartment in Albertville with an Australian missionary friend visiting (She works in Senegal). Christmas lunch was shared with others of the church who would otherwise have been alone. A good time was had by all.

Shortly after, in January, we (Donna and Mike) had a brief trip to England to attend Mike's Mum's wedding... a very nice service it was as well. We also caught up with friends and family in and around Colchester.

Luke and Jonathan

The boys were in school so they couldn't come but they're old enough to look after themselves for a few days... Jonathan is not at home during the week anyway, he is a boarder... and Luke when he isn't at school (Lycée) he is likely to be working at MacDonalds. Luke is in his last year at Lycée and is presently sitting his mock exams.. it's difficult sometimes to gauge how they are going!! and to top it all Luke is

starting driving lessons (at least he's preparing for the written test, he's not behind the wheel yet!)

Meanwhile Jonathan is already telling me he's only got a few weeks left before he finishes his first year at Lycée. He is still as passionate as ever for rugby – despite breaking a front tooth in a match a few weeks back. The next two Saturdays are scheduled at the dentist.

More banners

As a distraction from our regular work with people Donna has really taken to banner making. She's just got an order for two more – in English this time... If you'd like to see some of those she's done there's a webpage for this as well! www.e-shofar.com/banners/. This site is still in the making, but you get the idea....

Calendar :

FGBMFI meeting 17 March 2007 Aix-les-Bains – lead worship

Intimacy seminar 20-21 April 2007 Geneva – lead worship

YWAM InTouch Camps

28 July – 4 August 2007, Vallorbe, Switzerland – lead worship, leadership team

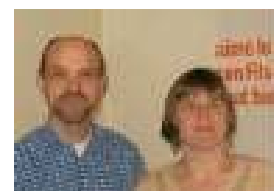
11 – 18 August 2007, Le Gault la Fôret, – lead worship, leadership team

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Romans 8:28-30

Yours in his service,
God Bless,
Love 'N' Stuff,

Mike and Donna



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73200 Albertville
FRANCE

0033 (0)4 79 32 74 91

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