

And so, at last, I find myself with a little bit of time so I can put pen to paper, as it were, to give you an update of what is going on in our lives.

## Church in the Maurienne

We have been investing more and more time into the group of believers in the Maurienne. Already we have seen God do some amazing things.

- A couple on the verge of separating and divorce have turned their lives around giving God the priority in their personal and professional lives. Immediately after making this decision they were able to sell their house which relieved a major financial pressure... and God's blessing and leading continues very strongly in their lives.
- Open caring relationships are being formed between people of different denominational backgrounds.



We are now running a weekly prayer meeting, two homegroups/bible studies (because there were too many of us for one group in which everyone could participate freely) and a Sunday meeting every two weeks - once a month a formal service, once a month an informal fellowship/prayer/worship meeting.

Also at the end of April we invited all the Christians of the valley to share a time of fellowship together. Several denominations were represented and we agreed to maintain contact with each other and have other informal times together.



## Opposition and Cost

This does not come without cost or opposition, but despite this we push on because we believe that is what God has called us to do.

We have become even more aware of our need to relocate into the valley, and preferably be in the town of St Jean de Maurienne itself – where the people are. To this end we signed up with an organisation that offers low-cost rented housing and just recently they offered us a flat near to the town centre. We had wanted something bigger with a garden – it seems that now is not the time, our focus has to be building the church not establishing yet a house of refuge. Anyway we have given notice on our flat in Albertville – we have to be out by the beginning of September... but we probably have to take the new flat in the middle of July, so that will mean paying two rents for nearly two months – a subject for prayer especially as we are finding it difficult to pay one rent! We will incur additional costs in decorating our present flat to leave it in good order and obviously moving costs. At each step God has been faithful, even if at times we have tended to lose our faith in him providing, he has continued to provide.

## Unemployed?

As we have already related Mike has had to sign on as unemployed in order to supplement our income. This means he has to actively look for employment. He has been considering trying to find a part time job in the architectural field. In May a firm agreed to give him a trial of two weeks and this has led to a suggestion of employment after a training period. However the training has to be agreed with the "job centre" and this is proving to be a long process. The down side to this, apart from the time he will have to spend on things other than the church in the Maurienne is that the firm is located in Albertville... hmmm, another prayer subject.

## And Donna?



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Working with the church in France

...cont./

Donna is being kept very busy as well with her new talent of banner making. She presently has 'orders' for 5 more banners, the first of which she is doing now is in Swedish. Perhaps we should make this into a commercial project?! *"It's a great experience to not only be making banners to encourage people in worship but to be able to do it in different languages. I have so far done English, French, Swedish and I will be doing one in Wolof (for those of you who don't know this is the language spoken in Senegal). And I'm loving it 😊"*

## Luke – exams and more exams..

Luke is right at this minute doing his driving theory test – so we're praying like crazy for him. Next week he has the majority of his "Baccalaureate" (bac) exams (A-level standard exams) and then he will have finished Lycée for good. October all being well will see him at university in Grenoble, which is about an hour away from us.



## Jonathan – another year over

Jonathan finishes his first year of Lycée today with a bit of a mixed school report; we can see which subjects he likes! We will be picking him up tomorrow and signing him up for next year to pursue his Bac in economic sciences with a rugby option. The rugby season has just about come to an end; his tally for this year – one broken tooth, two sprained thumbs and a couple of days of intense neck pain. Not too bad I guess, but not too easy for us as parents. Still he really enjoys it and is one of the best players in each of the teams he plays for – his Lycée, Albertville, Savoie, and Alpes. The only level at which he hasn't played (yet) is for the national team. That's to follow... 😊!

## Summer craziness

Looking forward to summer we see just a huge number of things that we'll be doing. We have two inTouch (YWAM) camps, one in France the other in Switzerland at which we lead the worship and help staff. We have visitors at the end of August - a family of missionaries who work with Wycliffe in Senegal and are currently on furlough, and two other friends who are also missionaries to Senegal but with a different mission. We shall also have a friend who works in the Congo stopping over on her way home to the States for a few days. Even though the place is filling up with boxes we can always find space for more Our house is really the Tardis, (Dr Who fans will get it). We have been invited to lead some worship for a

missionary team conference which is to be held at the end of August in Albertville...

... and then we will be moving house at some stage...



... and who knows about Mike's job...

Luke will be working more hours at McDonalds – he has just been promoted to "instructor" status.

Jonathan is looking to help on a friend's farm for a few weeks in Val d'Isère, about an hour away from Albertville...

And we shall need to keep things going with the church in the Maurienne over this period as well. We have not arranged any formal services as things tend to stop for the two months of summer but we will need to work all the harder maintaining contact between all the 'members'. We have planned some picnics so that we can keep in touch with people from other denominations in the valley, and we shall be meeting others informally, building up relationships and encouraging folks.

So there you have it, the Spencer plans for the next couple of months, busy, busy and yet we are really excited about what God can and will do in the Valley of Saint Jean and we are open to being used by Him for the extension of His Kingdom. If you receive a verse or an encouragement for us as a family or for the Church in the Maurienne then please do send it to us to encourage us in the work. We would be unable to do the work God has called us to do without people praying for us and encouraging us. Also please do let us know if you have prayer needs this is a two-way relationship. Be blessed this summer and we look forward to letting you know how things went in our next newsletter.

## Calendar :

YWAM InTouch Camps

**28 July – 4 August 2007**, Vallorbe, Switzerland

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

*But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it... so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fulness of Christ.*

*Ephesians 4:7, 11-13*

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

*Mike and Donna*