

# Provis' Progress



Leviticus 10:10-11 (NIV)  
<sup>10</sup> You must distinguish between the holy and the common, between the unclean and the clean, <sup>11</sup> and you must teach the Israelites all the decrees the LORD has given them through Moses.

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## The Journey Begins

Welcome to the first Provis' Progress Newsletter! This is a lot posher than anything Ruth produced when she was last in missions, but now she has a closet computer geek as a husband and the possibilities are endless! So where do we begin? Well, we have begun the

first step of our training and "at home" here. I guess that is the blessing towards life as missionaries. It hardly seems of the "missionary call", possible that we have and that in the words of only been here for 7 Paul Young, "Where ever weeks. It feels a lot I lay my hat, that's my longer than that, not home". (Must remember because it's been particularly difficult, but because we feel so settled to always pack a hat!)

12/09/2009

It doesn't take an extraordinary person, just devotion to our extraordinary God, to live an extraordinary life

## Community Life

Our sense of family has changed since becoming part of a community. The base is practically empty for 9 months of the year, and then is invaded for 12 weeks by a group of Discipleship Training School students and staff, so we are a small and tight knit group. There are 13 students, including Mark and one other family, who are school staff. The boys have a lot of big brothers and sisters, but it is always in our hearts for them to know that they only have one set of parents. It is

very easy in community life to let others look after your children, but we are very mindful and grateful for all the preparation that God took Ruth through these last 7 years to know that her family are her first call and ministry. We eat lunch and tea in the dining room with the other students, and after a little struggle, Noah and Elijah now are content just to sit with Mum and Dad. Boring, we know! Both the boys have their favourite students, who they want to sit next

to every meal time, and the students are very gracious in sitting with them. As Ruth cooks the main meals and is in charge of the kitchen, sometimes her sense of family size is huge! All of a sudden she has gone from worrying about the dietary needs of 3 to 25! And of different nationalities and preferences. But God proves Himself to be Faithful Father day after day, and food is abundant and tastes great too.

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# Provis' Progress

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Troglodyte village carved into the rock face situated on the 'mountain' behind the base

## Elijah

Elijah is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the local primary school, and attends 4 days a week. His teacher speaks English, which is a huge blessing for him.

He has French tuition twice a week at school, and although he pretends to us not to be interested in learning French, his

teacher has said when he concentrates he does very well. All you parents just picked up on the 'when' bit of that sentence!

He goes swimming with his class every Thursday morning, and every Friday afternoon he teaches his class English!

He loves playing with the older boys, Ariel and Michael, from Brazil when not at school, and loves all the outdoor freedom he has here. It hardly rains here, and the sun is always shining when it's not raining. What more could a boy ask for?

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU DO FOR HIM, BUT WHO YOU ARE IN HIM THAT IS IMPORTANT

## Noah

Noah's time at school hasn't been as easy as Elijah's. He is in the last year of pre-school, and his teacher does not speak much English. He was attending 4 days a week, like Eli, but we have just dropped him down to 2 full days and 2 half days as he was finding it a bit too much.

He joins Eli for French tuition every Monday and Thursday afternoon, and like Eli, he understands a lot more than he lets on. One of the students is in her late forties and speaks very quickly in an accent

that we both struggle to understand, but Noah understands her perfectly! Hopefully after Christmas Noah will be confident enough to go to school full time.

Noah and Eli also have friends off the base. David and Jeremy are 2 boys belonging to a Swiss-English couple Christophe and Deborah. They are ex-YWAMer's but still live in Saint Paul. Ruth and the boys go to their house every Wednesday morning in an attempt to teach all

the boys English. David and Jeremy speak French, but Deborah speaks English to them, so the boys being together works well. Just need to prise Ruth away from Deborah's 2 month old baby girl! We will be living in a flat underneath this family from Christmas till the end of Mark's school. (More about that nearer the time.)



Noah's 5th Birthday

## Ruth

My kitchen was my altar at home, and nothing has changed. Only I cook for 25-30 and write shopping lists in French! The results of that can leave me with a challenge on how to match what has arrived, with what is on the menu, but to date it has worked really well. I really enjoy it, especially as I can sing my head off whilst cooking!

I am also enjoying the privilege of being non-school staff. Students talk to me because they want to, not because they have

to, and true to His word, God is giving me many opportunities to speak grace into their lives, however broken my French and their English may be.

I have had opportunities to teach on prayer and intercession and have also prayed for the students during a ministry time, and this was literally awesome. I heard God speak and He showed me things about people that wowed me as well as the students. He really does know all of our life's details

## Mark

I have just finished the fifth week of my DTS (Discipleship Training School), so far we have had teaching on: The Church, Leadership (taught by Denis Drugeau, base leader here and also leader of YWAM France), Life of a Disciple, Spiritual Warfare & Intercession, The Character of God, The Cross & Repentance, and Worship with Rolf Schneider (no not the bloke from Jaws, that was Roy Schneider) and there is still another seven weeks of the lecture phase left

and that's before the 12 week outreach, which we just found out will be to Cameroon!

The lectures are all translated into English when being taught in French which is mainly for my benefit as the other English speakers all have a good understanding of French, but some of the lectures have been taught in English and then translated into French for everybody else, so I don't feel quite so bad.

intimately.

Other opportunities are opening up to me as well, but more about those in the next news letter.

My French is going well. I understand some people more than others, and I am now beginning to make myself understood, even if I Franglaised a bit! The students are very patient at helping me to learn.

We have also discovered whilst we have been here that I am of Huguenot descent and the area we live in has a rich Huguenot history, so for me it is a home coming of sorts.



St Paul Trois Chateaux

IF YOU BECOME  
TOO BIG TO DO THE  
SMALL THINGS, YOU  
WILL SOON BECOME  
TOO SMALL TO DO  
THE BIG THINGS



One of my favorite views in the base



.....to make ready a people prepared for the Lord (Luke 1:17)

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Don't forget, you can partner with us and our work by supporting us;

- As a partner in prayer
- As a financial supporter

As you can imagine, a calling like this requires financial support from a number of people, and, most importantly, we need your prayer support. Prayer is the fuel that will allow us to be successful as we follow God's leading in our ministry. Without prayer, little, or nothing will happen.

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Home Sweet Home

### Praise & Prayer

#### Praise:

For God being here with us and making a home for us here.

For the boys settling into to their new schools.

For the boys having friends to play with and learn French with.

For Ruth quickly finding her feet in the kitchen.

For the friendships that are being formed here with staff and students.

#### Prayer:

For God to continue to hold us in His hands.

That God would give the boys a supernatural ability to understand what is being spoken to them, even though they may not always be able to speak it back. What they both struggle with most is not being able to do what the teacher wants them to because they don't always understand.

For relationships to continue to grow not just on the base, but at the Church we have decided to make our home

For Ruth to continue enjoying the kitchen and hearing God and praying and ministering to this part of France.

For Mark to continue in deepening his relationship with God and learning all that God would want Him to learn at this time.

For the ongoing preparation for Mark's outreach to Cameroon.



The Base



Students & Staff