

## INTERESTING TIMES, CHRISTMAS 2010



At this, as at any time of the year, we wish you “Shalom” in the Lord Jesus. In many parts of this world, people hope for peace, negotiate peace and compromise for peace. The Father sent Jesus to give us peace. No negotiations or hopes or compromise. Not the temporary peace of the world, but a peace that the world doesn’t understand. A peace the world cannot give. Only in Jesus can we have peace, Jesus the Prince of Peace.

Reflecting on 2010, we Hadleys have had a good year. Can we compare it with 2009? Nope, wouldn’t know where to start. Our work in and with the churches has advanced and church leaders enjoy each other’s company and trust each other more. There have been fun times with our friends from across the denominations. God bless them this Christmas.

As a family we have had a lot of good times. The highlights are too many to remember. Family life is a rich blessing from God. We had an ace holiday in July at sunny Kingsdown in Kent; restful and special as we shared our campsite with the foxes and badgers or, as we shared their campsite.

Ben’s studies in computer programming continue to go well. He loves what he is doing and is due to complete his course in July 2011. His faith in Jesus is growing too and he is the co-leader at the University Bible Group. Charlotte is, like Ben, a joy to have around. Witty and jovial and yet growing deeply in her faith in Jesus. Her studies (Upper Sixth equivalent) should end in June 2011. She has an interest in medicine so we pray with her for the future. The school workload is very heavy but she perseveres and does well. She attends the University Bible Group with Ben and serves the Lord at church with the computer and projector.

Whilst this letter reflects so many positive aspects of the year, we do have some very sad news. We’ve been praying a lot for Ben’s best friend, Daniel, who has had cancer. Daniel was progressing well but in his weak state picked up an infection. He was readmitted to hospital, but his health deteriorated rapidly. In the early hours of Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> December, he went to be with his Lord. Our prayers are with his parents, Graham and Kath, and his sister Rebecca.

God grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change;  
courage to change the things I can;  
and wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;  
Enjoying one moment at a time;  
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;  
Taking, as He did, this sinful world  
as it is, not as I would have it;  
Trusting that He will make all things right  
if I surrender to His Will;  
That I may be reasonably happy in this life  
and supremely happy with Him  
Forever in the next.  
Amen.

--Reinhold Niebuhr and William Spence

Wendy and I lead busy lives and know how welcome down time is. Our work with the Evangelical Alliance continues as we try to bring more churches and their leaders into partnership in building the Kingdom of God. Joint church events are becoming more regular and pastors are praying for each other as friends. This is a joy for us as it's what we and you have been praying for.

My teaching at St Paul school is as busy as ever. It can be stressful but overall it's fun. Sometimes I wonder why I am there. If I was free to do "church" work 24/7 I could achieve more surely! But the Lord has put me with all these young people and the staff and teachers. I have recently had the opportunity to talk with 80 fifth formers about the end times and eternal life! What a privilege! I continue to work with the chaplaincy and the school's pastoral council.

Wendy has been teaching primary school teachers how to teach English, and give them confidence too, as well as various tasks in church. Her support at home is so valuable for us all as a family and as we support the pastors and their families. As a family we attend the Groupe Biblique de St Etienne church. The church will shortly move to a larger building in the north-west of the city, not far from the tramway. We've a lot of DIY to do so we can move in, but the work means good fellowship and healthy banter. We hope to be in the new building before Christmas.

We wish you all a very joyful Christmas and a great 2011. Thank you all for your faithfulness in prayer and support.

Love in Jesus,

Wayne, Wendy, Ben, and Charlotte



8 le hameau de Sorbiers, 42290 Sorbiers, France. (00 44) 4 77 53 81 30 [wendy@lightsinfrance.eu](mailto:wendy@lightsinfrance.eu)  
[wayne@lightsinfrance.eu](mailto:wayne@lightsinfrance.eu)