

MARSEILLE

JANUARY 2007

Dauner, Heroux, Hutchinson and Young families



Adoring the Lord, Provençal-style...

THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD...

How our musicals help us communicate the message of Jesus Christ to our secularised society in France.

No method of outreach can take the place of the preached word of God. Every local church rightfully gives priority to solid gospel preaching, proclaimed faithfully and with conviction.

At the same time, music and drama have a way of bypassing cultural prejudices against religion and creating a non-threatening “neutral zone” for communicating scriptural truths so that people will want to learn more. Let’s face it: Getting our unchurched, secularized-from-the-cradle French neighbors through the doorway of our chapel to hear a gospel sermon is practically Mission Impossible. They are much more willing to visit our church for a choral concert or dramatic presentation and may even justify their attendance in order to see a friend or relative perform.

What awaits them, once they have made that crucial first step into the chapel, is more than simple entertainment, but a living church of real people from their own neighborhood bearing powerful witness in song, drama and word to their Christian faith. Even if none of our guests had ever told us how much the gospel

message touched their hearts, we would have seen it anyway, on their faces and in their tears.

This has become one of our most fruitful forms of evangelism in Marseilles. The great majority of new converts made their first contact with the church through our concerts and musical plays. We have become known in the community as a congregation that is alive, active and serious about reaching people, even if that spells c-u-l-t to many.

On Saturday, December 16, the Chorale Harmonie and the 24-member children’s chorus finished off the evangelistic program of the year by presenting a program of sacred songs and a musical play entitled Christmas in Provence. The original play reenacted the text of Luke 1-2, but with the traditional costumes, songs and accents of southern France. A few of the songs were even performed in the old Provençal language.

We have never packed so many people into our chapel. There were probably close to 200 people in attendance. (I counted 40 standing up or sitting on the floor, but I could not see all of those who

spent two hours listening from the sidewalk!) We had done virtually no advertising; all of these people came because of personal invitations. Even our visitors brought visitors!

The message of the entire program — the play, Philippe’s sermon and the songs — was explicitly evangelistic, not just fuzzy holiday sentimentalism. It was obvious from talking with them afterward, that message had come through to the visitors, whatever their present spiritual outlook. And we had the whole range, from complete secularists to Muslim families to Protestant pastors and Catholic priests. All went away with a better understanding of the good news of Jesus’ coming.

In the midst of a culture that has programmed people to treat the Christian religion with disdain and suspicion, we are compelled to use whatever means are available to tell the world about Jesus. Our musical plays and choral concerts are not ends in themselves, but rather valuable tools to retell the greatest story ever told.

2006 TIMELINE

Some of the year's highlights...

January

Couples' night

St Valentine's day was a special occasion for some 20 couples to come to church and be filled with a Christian viewpoint on marriage. This was a good step forward in meeting people, many of whom we met for the first time! The teens provided the entertainment and Denise a great meal.



February



Sénégal Mission Trip

CEM's 2005-2006 mission trip was in French-speaking Senegal this year ; the group attended the opening of a Bible school in Dakar (where Max and Greg spoke), visited some churches there and some of the neighboring villages.

March

Musical on the Parables - Chorale Harmony Tour - Recordings

The children introduced "Once upon a parable" in three different settings, and the Chorale Harmony followed with their annual tour (France, Germany and Switzerland), and a lot of good work on recording the new CDs.

Catherine Lopez' baptism



April

French family retreat at Bonnefoi Center

Building projects in The Bonnefoi Center

We finally upgraded the center according to French regulations, and can now officially house 182 people. 2007 should see the end of initial construction work.

June

Christians On Mission Summer internship

On top of intensive Bible studies, the week included gospel concerts in our chapel, at a local catholic parish (where we also did a repeat performance of Once Upon a Parable), in the open air and in neighborhood rest homes; taking food to the homeless; preparing Bible camp materials; street evangelism; etc. For many of our out-of-towners, these were new experiences in their church life.

The campers!



July

Constantin's Baptism During camp

Harmony Bible Camp

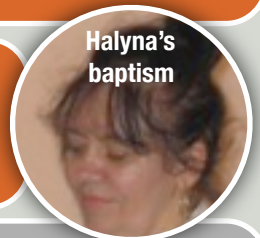
110 campers (up from 35 ten years ago!), an incredible theme (Jesus' sacrifice), a wonderful musical performed by the kids (The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe), and the best opportunity of the year to reach out to dozens of non-christian kids.

September

Christians On Mission 2006 closing ceremony

Ketty Gauthierot, Kate Linske, Rachel Mievilly and Jordan Smith spent their CEM year with us in Marseilles, and carry many of our hopes for the french-speaking churches.

Halyna's baptism

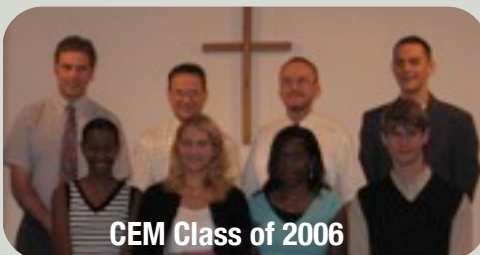


October

November

Teen, Team and "golden age" retreats

December



CEM Class of 2006

Christmas Musical "Noël en Provence"

Our best attended evangelistic event ever (200 visitors)!

Our
annual
church
retreat



2006 HIGHLIGHTS

Coming to Faith in 2006

We shared the joy in heaven with three new members of our Church body in Marseilles baptized during 2006. Catherine Lopez was baptized in April, Constantin Tertov in July during the Harmony Bible Camp, and his mother Haylena Dudar in October.

Youth Groups in Full Flight

The Marseilles Church youth landscape continues to change and grow under the direction of Philippe and Dolores Dauner. This year, the teen group, Ado-Ration, came into its own, with a solid core group and many friends coming out to discover the faith with their peers. A new group, La Foi en Folie (Faith Explosion), was created for the pre-teens, who already number nearly a dozen. And the younger end of the youth scale continues La Foi en Fête (Faith Celebration).



Justin Dauner, having just completed his undergraduate Bible degree in nearby

Aix-en-Provence in June of 2006, joined us for the retreat and will continue to expand his role in the ministry here while completing his master's degree.

A Culmination Year for the Chorale

A five year repertoire was brought together and forged into the recording of two CDs during 2006. One Cd of 19 Gospel songs is entitled *Ride On!*, and the other Cd of 22 sacred songs, *Parmi nous*. The mastery of these songs required a huge effort from the Chorale and its director, Katie Young. On top of a concert tour in April, the Chorale recorded in February, April and June. Katie then worked all fall on mixing and mastering with our producer in order to

complete the Cds. *Ride On!* arrived in December, and *Parmi Nous* will arrive in early February and features 15 new songs in French with lyrics written by Prisca Dauner. On top of these Cds, the Trio of Sarah, Emilie and Esther recorded 20 additional songs in June and December for their own Cd to be completed in the first part of 2007.

A Unique Team Gathering

In late October the Marseilles Mission Team gathered for a retreat on the heels of the annual Teen Retreat at our Goodfaith Center. The two days together were devoted to encouraging one another while taking time to look back and learn from the past and also to look ahead and plan for the future. A special note :

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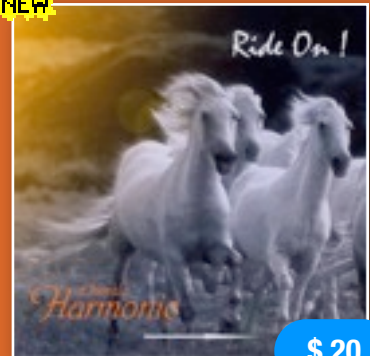
Club Cool

Club Cool, our Tuesday afternoon Bible club directed by Diana Hutchinson, continues to be our most effective neighborhood outreach. This year, an average of 25 children learned the Gospel through teaching, song, skits and puppets, as well as through the preparation of three musicals presented this year.

OUR NEW CDs!

Ride On!
(Gospel songs)

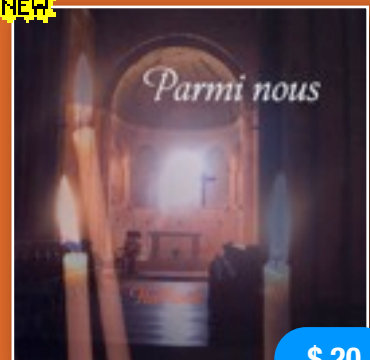
NEW



\$ 20

Parmi Nous
(French songs)

NEW



\$ 20

Chorale Harmony CDs:

· To order a CD, visit:
Choraleharmonie@free.fr.
(free samples online!)

· We have produced these CDs in order to encourage the worship and strengthen the faith of French believers. The sale of the CDs directly supports the Harmony Bible Camp. Your purchase helps us reach the next generation for Christ...

LOOKING AHEAD...

Ministries in Marseilles in 2007

As we look back at all the Lord has done through the different ministries in Marseilles and beyond we are even more excited to look ahead at the opportunities for this next year. Here are some of our plans and projects for your prayers. May the Lord guide our steps as we seek to glorify his name in Marseilles.

Harmony Chorale

This spring, the Harmony Chorale will make a concert tour to churches in the Marseilles region as well as in the north of France to promote the chorale's two new CD recordings "Ride On" and "Parmi nous" (Among Us). We pray that this ministry will be a means to financially help our Bible camp (through sale of the CD's) and also be a spiritual encouragement for the churches.

"Centre Bonnefoi"

Plans are being made for more construction at Goodfaith Retreat Center! In June, we will be blessed to have the help of a team of 25 workers from the Pitman Church of Christ in New Jersey to add on a connecting hall to the new dining hall. This addition will give us a more practical use of the two dining hall facilities and will allow us to keep in stride with government food service regulations. We appreciate the sacrifices of the Pitman Church to come from so far to give us a hand. "Merci beaucoup"!

The Center will host the French European church retreat in May as well as several other church related activities through the year.

Christians on Mission

Our "Christians on Mission" Bible program will be on track again this coming year with a strong desire to help train Christians for the challenges of living out the Christian life in a highly secular world. At this point for next year we have one young man inscribed with several others considering the year program.

Our annual week-long CEM summer session program will take on an American flavor this year. In addition to a good number of European Christians, we will be pleased to welcome several Christians from Winsor, Connecticut, Little Rock, AR, and St. Louis, MO.

Chapelle de Fuveau

On the local church front we have planned a weekend outreach seminar at our chapel based on the book and film, "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe." Max Dauner has prepared a DVD Bible study format of the story for use in evangelism. Through C.S. Lewis' story of four children in the world of Narnia, Max brings to light the vivid truths about the gospel of Christ and about our response to it. He has found a means to tell the old, old story in a new and creative way which we believe will speak to the modern mind. The second, in conjunction with the Narnia seminar, is a Narnia musical also based on Lewis' story. Through the work of Diana Hutchinson and Katie Young,



The Marseilles team

our children's Bible club will perform this musical around Easter time. Christophe Varoquier, a Christian and talented musician from Lyon, France, wrote all the music for this production, which will not only be a means to teach the gospel to the public in attendance, but also to the children participating!

Harmony Bible camp

Harmony Bible camp continues this summer in July, now in its 12th year! Though we don't have all the details worked out at this time, we are expecting again over 100 children to be enrolled for this year.

Above all these different activities and plans, we anticipate and pray for the Lord's sovereign will at work in our lives. We are excited to think of how He will use these efforts for His good purpose. We have plans and dreams for this coming year, but most of all we want to accomplish His plan for our lives and for the lives of those we meet. May He direct all of our steps in this coming year!

THE MARSEILLES TEAM:

- **Marseilles Church of Christ:**
<http://chapeldefuveau.free.fr>
- **Christians on Mission:**
<http://chretienmission.free.fr>
- **Bonnefoi Center:**
<http://centrebbonnefoi.free.fr>
- **Max Dauner website:** **NEW!**
<http://faxbymax.net>
- **Philippe Dauner's website/blog:**
<http://lesdauner.free.fr>

Max and Prisca Dauner

(00 33) 4 91 66 30 67
max.dauner@wanadoo.fr

Philippe and Dolores Dauner

(00 33) 4 91 06 79 00
lesdauner@free.fr

Justin Dauner

(00 33) 4 91 21 80 04
jdauner@free.fr

Denise Heroux

(00 33) 4 91 93 53 88
denise.heroux@tiscali.fr

Guy and Diana Hutchinson

(00 33) 4 91 70 35 52
hutch@cegetel.net

Craig and Katie Young

(00 33) 4 91 70 26 58
c.young@wanadoo.fr