



# Baines Broadcast

March 2003

Guera, Chad.

News from David and Evelyn Baines

Training with Wycliffe

## Settling in Brussels

We have been in Brussels since September 2002 and initially stayed with Evelyn's parents while we found our own accommodation. In October, David started French courses at the Alliance Francaise full time, in preparation for our work in Chad. David aims to join SIL Chad's computer department to provide technical support and training. Evelyn hopes to take part in their literacy program which would involve training Chadian teachers.

### Evelyn's bit...

It is good to be back in Brussels and to introduce David to Belgium. We have had opportunities to visit cities where I've lived as a child, both in France and in Belgium. We were in the Paris area for a long weekend mid February and enjoyed (re)discovering places that are dear to me. We were grateful for a break.

We have enjoyed time with family, especially with nieces Alexia and Jessica. We see our nephew Joshua occasionally too. It is precious to have this time with family before we go abroad.

I work full time as a nurse at Brugmann University Hospital, in Schaerbeek. The hospital is 20 minutes away by tram. I enjoy the teamwork and the contact with patients of multicultural/multi-ethnic backgrounds. A number of my colleagues are Muslim. Through getting to know them I am gaining valuable insights into their faith and various aspects of their cultures.



Evelyn and David at the Grand-Place in Brussels



Art Nouveau in Brussels

## Highlights

**October** We move into a lovely flat in Brussels. David starts French courses. We attend the Marriage course.

**November** Evelyn has interviews and gets a nursing position at Brugmann University Hospital.

**December** We celebrate Christmas in Bourne with the Baines clan. Renata and Aretta, Mike and Susan come to visit us.

**February** Sledging with Chris and Pam Beauchamp and our niece Alexia. We visit places where Evelyn lived, near Paris.

**March** David attends Sandy and Lisa's wedding in York. Sandy was best man at our wedding two years ago. We enjoy a weekend retreat with our church.

## Lowlights

**November** Evelyn's grandfather passed away.

## David's bit...

The flat we rent is about a 15-minute walk from the Alliance Francaise where I have my French classes every morning. The classes are divided into three levels, A, B and C. Level A took four months and I've started Level B, which is expected to take 8 months to complete.

Recently, I felt that grammar learning was progressing well, but my conversational French was progressing slowly. So I'm now attending French conversation classes two afternoons a week to help get more practice and gain confidence speaking French. Conversation classes can be fun, the teacher introduces a topic, with a recent article and then we divide into groups to debate the issue. In order to have a lively discussion the teacher chooses topics like: "La peine de mort" i.e. Capital Punishment or French idioms.

I have really enjoyed the French courses, in contrast to French at secondary school, which I thought was irrelevant at the time! However, this last month has been more difficult as we have learnt many different verb forms and their purpose. Initially, grammar was quite straightforward and a sentence was right or wrong. Now I find that the sentences may be grammatically correct without conveying the intended meaning. I hope to be able to find ways to practise French conversation while the school is closed for Easter.

We attend a French speaking church and have joined one of its house-groups, that meets on Thursday evenings. It's been good to have an increasing understanding of the discussions and to find that I'm able to contribute.

### Praise the Lord with us

- For a good transition into life, studies and work in Brussels.
- For a smooth transfer of tenancy, in March, for our flat in Edinburgh - we really appreciate the help of our friend Penni who keeps an eye on our flat.
- For good results following a biopsy Evelyn underwent in February.

### Please pray with us

- That David will be able to maintain his focus on French language learning and that we will speak more French with each other.
- For a restful Easter holiday together in April, preferably in the sun.
- For opportunities to share in various churches and groups in Belgium about our future ministry.
- For ongoing growth in our spiritual walk.
- For the SIL team in Chad as they enter the harsh dry season and for the ongoing construction of their centre in N'djamena.

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Please mark gifts to this address with: "For David and Evelyn Baines".



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