

## Dijon Feedback



It was good to be back with the Eglise Evangelique Protestante in Dijon, France, after a gap of eighteen months, as their guest for a weekend to address them on the theme of 'Growing Together.' They made me very welcome, and were warm in their expressions of thanks for my coming. It was encouraging to see a fellowship of believers so together and committed to each other, and growing as well, having finished an Alpha course the evening before my arrival.

I was serving alongside prophetic minister, Philippe Delplanque, from the Ardeches in the south of France. It was so encouraging to work together, Philippe complementing the teaching with very specific and encouraging words of prophecy. He is a man of great humility and simplicity, one who has just taken Jesus at His word, moving to a mobile home in the mountains and forests of the south to be obedient to the Lord. I found myself quite chastened by the Lord through Philippe, since I have tended to be rather down on the gift of prophecy in direct personal words. But I felt the Holy Spirit cautioning me about limiting His sphere of operation by my own reason, and I have to say that the fruit of the time was all glory to Christ, and not to the prophetic ministry.

After a weekend of meetings, the last evening was spent with a number of the brothers of the church, in Christophe and Glyn's flat, over good Burgundy and *oeufs meurette*, a speciality of the region. I was impacted by the love, honour and care they openly display to one another, a fruit of their years together in yieldedness to God and each other in this community.

Particularly encouraging was seeing the space the Lord has made for Glyn Hackett, a former member of Edinburgh City Fellowship, and known to some of us in CCE. Since moving to France from Edinburgh in 1999, he has grown in faithfulness and ministry, and now teaches and leads in the community there as part of Assan Merabti's team. It was a great joy, on the Saturday afternoon, to witness the congregation elect Glyn to part-time staff leadership among them from September this year. Philippe and I were privileged to pray with him, and I assured the folks there that I would pass on the news of Glyn's election to us back here in Edinburgh. If you are interested in sending him an email of encouragement, drop me a line, and I will put you in touch.

I am very grateful to Annie and Jean-Claude Petit for their generous hospitality, in their lovely home up in Fontaine-les-Dijon, birthplace of St Bernard of Clairvaux, and to Pastor Assan and Sylvie Merabti, for their openness to receive input so willingly. I have returned to Edinburgh as much ministered to as having ministered, and look forward to continuing relationship through ongoing prayer for brothers and sisters in Dijon as well as strengthened bridges between us in the days ahead.