

IF I WERE A RICH MAN !



A few days ago I watched some of *Fiddler on the Roof*, Norman Jesison's excellent film based on the famous musical comedy. One of the songs in this show, « If I were a rich man ! » is well known internationally.

This song reminded me of a Bible verse. In 2 Corinthians 8 :12 the apostle Paul is teaching that we all have to give realistically, according to what we can give and not just dream of what we would give if we were rich, like in the song. Giving is not just a good deed or a spiritual act ; it's a result of spiritual conviction. As Actes 20:35 reminds us, giving brings more joy to the giver than to the receiver, whatever the amount given. Giving is one way God's children show gratitude to our heavenly Father for all the good gifts he showers on us.

In this early part of the new academic year at the Faculté, we are grateful that there is a positive spirit and that more students are enrolled in the various programmes on offer. Work is going ahead on several new projects, such as training in evangelism and church-planting, teaching sessions in other places, development of the distance courses, cooperation with sister institutions in France and abroad, looking for new professors. As all these projects go ahead we have to think how to fund the institution from day to day.



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The Faculté Jean Calvin faces a number of considerable challenges. We still cannot do without the support of our friends, as we are 30% down on gifts in comparison with the same time in 2014. We

are much indebted to you for your help in the past, and know you will share our concern and hear this appeal. We are counting on you to join us in the work of advancing the kingdom of God and edifying the churches.

Paul GIRAUD, Treasurer and choirmaster

Newsletter - Faculté Jean Calvin

In 1979 the Eglises Evangéliques Réformées signed a protocol agreement with MTW, an American mission. I went to work as one of their missionaries in the Eglise Evangélique Réformée in



Marseille. A few years later I was asked to lead a church-planting team in Plan-de-Cuques in the Marseille suburbs.

The Mission then asked me to work as pastoral support for Christians working in Eastern Europe. Seventy Christian organisations in the former Eastern bloc had

joined together to bring about reforms in the education system, especially in ethics.

For my next assignment I was appointed to work alongside missionaries involved in church-planting operations throughout Europe, from Ukraine to Portugal, from Italy to Sweden. This involved about 350 people, and my job was to work in supervision and counselling roles. After that, my ministry went in a different direction. I am a member of several commissions in the denomination, such as the Evangelism commission, and in various boards within the wider church context. More than 10 years ago I was appointed to

as pastor-evangelist with the specific mission of encouraging colleagues and helping churches in their evangelistic outreach.

Lastly, over the last five years I have worked as student chaplain at the Faculté Jean Calvin where I also work alongside the professors teaching classes on a variety of subjects relevant to church-planting: understanding different cultures, missions, evangelism and leadership, the importance of demographic studies, the choice of team workers, psychological profiling and planning.

My rôle as chaplain is very rewarding. The students come from a wide range of churches and different backgrounds. In counselling sessions I listen to them, encourage them and exhort them when necessary. I hope to see them become sufficiently motivated to serve the church and become the kind of workers described in Luke 10 :2.

Hugh Wessell



I had to leave my comfort zone

After finishing my Bachelors in Religious Studies in Spain, I came to Aix to do the first year of the Masters in Theology.

I lived in the seminary accommodation which allowed me to have lots of contacts with students of different nationalities. It's a place where we can live out our Christian faith together in a practical way and have fellowship.

As I didn't have too many class hours I was able to get a job. It seems to me its not a bad thing to keep in contact with the outside world while studying Theology.

Studying Theology in a new place of has made me learn new ways of thinking, working and exercising my Christian ministry. I had to leave my comfort zone and learn another way of approaching Theology.

Priscila Ibarz





A distance-student once said, jokingly : « Michaël is part of the furniture at the Faculté Jean Calvin ». We began studying Theology at the same time, in 2006, he as a distance student and me a residential student.

Sometimes it's hard for the distance students to see the full-time students get their degrees and leave the Faculté while they have to plod on, their programme being spread over a much longer period. One of the challenges of learning is persevering, sticking with it until the end. Distance-students come to Aix several time a year and love being part of campus

After getting my Bachelors I went on to do a Masters, while working part-time at the library and teaching Hebrew as a volunteer tutor. When the distance-student I mentioned earlier has come back the last six years he has still found me here.

He will no doubt be glad to learn (as he reads this newsletter) that in September 2014 I was taken on at the Faculté to teach Hebrew, manage the distance-learning programme and set up the Faculté's internet platform.



students get their programme distance-students life. part-never over

This is a technical job but it also brings me into contact with the distance-students. I can help them out at times and encourage them in their work, which brings me great encouragement in turn.

A word to those who are wondering whether they have a vocation for ministry

On my first visit to the Faculté I was struck by a certain look in the eyes of the students I saw. I soon realised that this was because they felt called to serve God. As the academic assistant, dealing with student recruitment, I would be on the front line, dealing with new candidates who come with a desire to serve but who also have their strengths and weaknesses.

It was bewildering to discover a world so totally different from the professional world I had worked in up to that point. Little account is given to principles that apply elsewhere and success is not measured in terms of personal ambition. The desire to work together in harmony is so evident that it belies the underlying rigour. Taking the time to do things well is not sacrificed to speed and reactivity.

Three years into the job I have got so used to the Faculté that I can't tell whether things have changed or whether it's my way of seeing things that's changed.

The students (40 new ones in 2016/2015) are of various ethnic backgrounds and come from several different churches. They are all headed in the same direction and give us great encouragement for the future of the church. Could there be a more privileged job than witnessing the grace of God in action ?

Aguy Khayiguan





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INSTITUT DE THÉOLOGIE PROTESTANTE ET ÉVANGÉLIQUE

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New publications by Paul Wells



« La foi chrétienne autrement » is a new edition of *La Foi chrétienne en libre accès* (Excelsis), which is now out of print.



« Prendre la Bible au mot » (La Maison de la Bible) is the French version of *Taking the Bible at its Word* (Christian Focus). Even though the Bible has been with us for so long, people have so many questions about it. How can Christians still see it as God's revelation? Doesn't believing the

Bible to be an objective authority amount to living in the past or holding to narrow-minded fundamentalism? Are there good and bad ways of reading and understanding the Bible? What are some of the traps we should avoid? On these and many other issues Paul Wells gives well-thought-out answers without side-stepping the difficulties, dealing with misunderstandings on the part of Christians and non-Christians alike. Ready to have a closer look at the most important document for Judeo-Christian culture and the Christian faith? Then this book is for you.



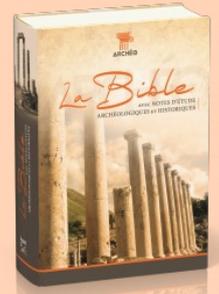
« La Bible avec notes d'étude archéologiques et historiques » provides a wide range of tools that will help discerning readers to expand their knowledge of the Bible.

It digs deep into the ancient world of the Bible and bridges the historico-cultural gap that can hinder our understanding. This work is already widely used and appreciated in English, and no doubt this new updated edition with its new articles will be just as useful to French readers.

Ron Bergey, Ph.D. Hebrew language and literature, Professor of Biblical Hebrew and Old Testament at the Faculté Jean Calvin in Aix-en-Provence, France

The book (2,160 pages) is edited by the Société Biblique de Genève and is made up of :

- La Segond 21, one of the most widely-read translations of the Bible in French
- Introductions to all the books of the Bible with notes on the text, addressees, context, chronological events and themes
- 706 articles on various themes : information gleaned from archaeological sites, people and objects of Bible times, in colour plates ; quotations from ancient texts close to Biblical accounts; information about ancient Israel's neighbours



About 8,000 notes with historical and cultural information

Dr Bergey contributed work on the Study Bible, La Segond 21, and the Study Bible with Archeological and Historical Notes.

Paul Wells is the editor of

Unio cum Christo,
an international theological revue

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