



Dear friends,



The time has come for season's greetings and the pleasure for us to join each one and give you some news.

It's the end of the civil year and, for us, Christians, it's the beginning of the new liturgical year; we're happy to wait that One who comes at each moment in our lives, and we fête especially for Christmas.

Our year was dense, and particularly marked by moves

At first, the move of our Clarisses sisters to Orthez. We tried to help them, to make it easier, but we felt many frictions against those we couldn't do anything but stay by them, in their service, as they requested. Our world adaptation sometimes bumped us against their reactions.

They arrived safe and sound and the little help we gave them in their new monastery confirmed us their adaptation is in the right track. They'll be well in this new monastery in Orthez. That enjoys us, and we'll be happy to go by them in March.

After that we helped the new nuns (les Chanoinesses de la Mère de Dieu) for their installation in Azille. For them, the change was also an important event. The buildings they did before their arrival worked not always as well as they hoped. They are arrived and are living their own adaptation time.

After all that, we moved ourselves. During two months, we packed in Azille and immediately unpacked in Cesseras. The building works in our home are far from their end, and we found back our "fitted out caravan". It's the name Odile gave to the part of the house we live in today, because of its size and the different tricks of cupboard spaces made by Jean-Michel.

In the new building, the cellar is finished and the storeroom is on the right way. We placed the outside pieces of joinery and tiled and painted the kitchen, the laundry and the toilets. For the else, the work goes slowly but surely.

Our future kitchen is temporary Jean-Michel's office.

About our family

With a great pleasure we've got our grand children during the summer holidays, and Lydie spent two long weeks by us. It was such a good meeting! Specially, we've got Orianne and Anne-Lise for a long time. Anne-Lise is becoming a nice teenager with her grand parents...

Autumn is the season where the leaves and fruit fall down... and brought us two grandsons; Maxime by Céline and Ghislain, and Alexandre by Sara and Benoist. The two cousins were born after an interval of three weeks, and we already enjoy about the holydays they'll spent together with us. It's such a pleasure for us to live it with the duo "Orianne-Estelle" which is excellent. What a joy to be grandparents able to gather the cousins during holiday periods!

Our Life at Cesseras

It's becoming quiet and peaceful and confirms our sedentary nature. We're fit and well at home. We began to meet again our neighbours, to get new relations with each one.

Odile prepares her retirement and Jean-Michel goes on collaborating with Pierre, often at Rodez. As often as possible, we go together to Rodez, for we like the friendly relationship we've with Pierre and Nadine.

Odile

I'll start my "daily cooking sessions" on January 2009. That will be told by word of mouth.

Daily good cooking is almost nothing !¹

I feel truly happy cooking, and I always discover new "tricks" to become better and better.

I do like embroidery; I discover again the joy of gardening as soon as the weather is mild and I've some free time; I help our baker's sons doing their school job... and a lot of little things when they turn up.

Jean-Michel

I share my time between my work and building the house. Some help here and there allow meetings with friends and neighbours. My half-time job gives me a lot of satisfactions, although the travels weight me a lot.

Our agreements evolve, don't really change, become more and more solid

With "AIDES" association, we go on welcoming people who need a familial peaceful rest; this year, we had four guests; one of them was a mother with her three children.

We're always thinking about "Beth-Salem" association; it needs time for maturation, but with the passing of meetings, we are confirmed in our intuition that the welcome we make must be given to people who don't have relationship with "AIDES"; so, we plan to create an association which can play, between guests and families like us, the same function as "AIDES" plays now.

With "CSEP", we go on helping children for school, and we changed of goddaughter. Mary Sunshine finished her studies and becomes working. Since May 2008 (beginning of the school year in the Philippines), we sponsor Ma-Theresa.

"SERVAS" gave us to meet French and Canadian people. We took advantage of the national meeting at Romorantin to go as far as Tours and see Marie and Hubert, a couple of friends we always meet with a great pleasure. Thanks to "SERVAS" we had also the pleasure to take part in the welcome of "Occitania a pé": seven Italian people walked from Piémont valleys (Italy) to Val d'Aran (Spain). Then want that Oc language will be registered as immaterial patrimony of the UNESCO. They have an intelligent and respectful process and got enthusiasm all their way long. We agreed with them and had a good time.

Our spiritual research is taking roots

Our spiritual ties with "Roche d'Or" community, and particularly with the part of them living in "Fontanilles", goes deeper. There we live with happiness sharing and prayer. We feel on the same human, spiritual and theological way.

We experiment that the only way to happiness is to always welcome every gift of the life, and be ready to share them. It's the reason why we give so much time to others though we're so short-timed for running our house project; but it's also the reason why we tirelessly carry on this project although, for human seeing, we've no money enough and less and less physical strength. We know, from experience, that everything is given when time has come. The "crisis" which seems to appear in the world economical life enforces our conviction that economical liberalism, in its current way, is a dead end, and that it's high time for us to rediscover the strength of sharing.

Here stops this brief survey on the year 2008. It was a good year, and while looking back at it, we can see all the springing up little bliss. They really exist, even though the mass media prefer keeping harping on about the wrong things; just open your eyes and pay attention.

We hope that it was as good for each of you as it was for us.

We wish you a good celebration time for 2008 ending and 2009 beginning. Celebration is essential to the life.

May this New Year a fresh one, new and rich of little bliss which will be able to enjoy your daily life!

Waiting for our next meeting (why not in Cesseras?), we say you "bye-bye, see you at once through the heart."

Odile and Jean-Michel
LÉVÊQUE

¹ See include presentation sheet you can spread as you want.

