

Sunday, September 16, 2007

Dear Greeting,

I'm writing to you as I travel back to Toulouse on the train. My weekend was spent in an old château in a little village in the French Alps. (It sounds more glamorous than it was. Our meeting room was a garage!) About 40 staff and student leaders from around France came together. This was not a typical beginning of the year retreat since all the students do not return till October. Rather our few days together were a time to set priorities, develop plans, and share ideas. There was also a time to share and celebrate God's work and blessings from the summer spent on projects in France and overseas.



Other than side conversations, everything was in French. I was able to follow two of the parts and even participate in one of the discussions. Lots of the time I had no idea what was being said and could not engage with people as much as I am used to doing. That was perhaps the hardest part for me. My 6 weeks of intensive French have definitely moved me along, but I am still at a very elementary level.



Last week I spent a few days with 8 Americans who had just arrived for the year to intern with us in Nantes, France. Rick and Lisa Kellum, an American staff couple who have served here for 13 years, led our in-country briefing. We learned some very practical things and it helped explain a few things to me that I had seen, but not understood. Although universities are not yet up and running we went on campus and found some students with whom we could initiate conversations. Rick's goal for us during this time was to get first hand experience of what we had been learning during the briefing.

Thanks for praying and for giving; together we are helping students know the Lord.

Liz Kealy in France with
Campus Crusade for Christ
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Learning,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Liz'.