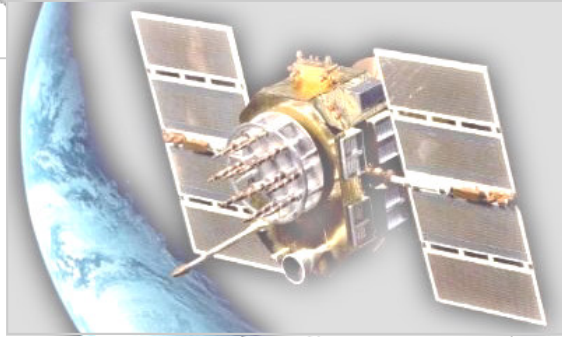


Toulouse's latest boast is that of being selected as headquarters for *Galileo*, the future European competitor to the American GPS, (Global Positioning System). It was a natural choice, as Toulouse is a main European center for aeronautic and aerospace industries, and thus what already is a growing city continues to increase even more.



Today, GPS's are becoming more and more popular, because everybody naturally likes to know where they are, where they are going, and how to get there. Thanks to satellite data, GPS's are able to indicate with fascinating accuracy one's position, velocity, and time all over the globe. No more getting lost, or suffering from a bad sense of direction: the GPS will do the navigation!

Amazingly, what man has recently invented for global navigation, God has already given us for eternal navigation. I guess we could call it an EPS, Eternal Positioning System. It too is handheld. It too tells us where we are and where we are going in the eternal scheme of things. Its data comes from heavenly sources and thus, is the most accurate source available to man. If used correctly, it keeps man from getting lost, eternally, and guarantees a successful navigation throughout the course of life. What is this EPS? The Bible, God's Word!

Unfortunately, this eternal navigation system is much less welcomed in Toulouse than *Galileo*, and people are more interested in successful geographical navigation than accurate spiritual orientation. But we do not lose heart, and continue to pray that our presence here would serve to point people in the right direction. Would that Toulouse also become a center for receiving and transmitting God's word to the world around us!

*2 Corinthians 4:1-2 Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart, but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.*

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church activities and  
other, see  
[www.niblack.org/sam](http://www.niblack.org/sam)

As 2006 gets under way, we are thankful for all that God has given us recently:

- God continues to give maturity and growth to the church here. More than ever, we are thankful for the opportunity to work alongside a very gifted French pastor, Vincent Bourrel, and his family. Our goal in 2006 is that the church functions more and more like the "body" that Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 12. To that end, we are starting the year by enumerating a number of ministries and roles which we hope to confide to different members of the church, so that *"the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."*
- We are also especially grateful for the spiritual progress and growth of the teenager group. They recently put forth a great effort in learning portions of the gospel of Mark and won (!) a Bible competition that was held with another

church. Several have been baptized recently and we rejoice to see the influence they have on the others.



- Our second son, **Etienne** (pronounced A-tyen) **Hugo**, was born the day after Christmas. God granted innumerable blessings throughout the delivery, and Simeon has kindly and joyfully (though not always gently) welcomed his little brother into the family.

When we think of all these blessings, the support and kindness that you offer, and the ongoing grace of God in our lives, the words of David in Psalm 65 seem so fitting :

*By awesome deeds You answer us in righteousness,  
O God of our salvation,  
You who are the trust  
of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest sea;*

[including France]

*Who establishes the mountains by His strength,*

[we spent a wonderful day in the Pyrenees mountains when my sister Laura, on her way back to Ethiopia, stopped by for a visit, and witnessed up close the glorious strength of God]

*Being girded with might;  
Who stills the roaring of the seas, The roaring of their waves,  
And the tumult of the peoples.*

[during the recent riots in Toulouse, we saw God's hand of protection on all those in the church that live near the turbulent parts of town]

*They who dwell in the ends of the earth  
stand in awe of Your signs;*

*You make the dawn and the sunset shout for joy.*

*You visit the earth and cause it to overflow;*

*You greatly enrich it;*

*The stream of God is full of water;*

*You prepare their grain, for thus You prepare the earth.*

*You water its furrows abundantly,*

*You settle its ridges,*

*You soften it with showers,*

*You bless its growth.*

[The care God bestows on His physical creation, does He not also guarantee for His people and His church?]

*You have crowned the year with Your bounty,*

[Etienne, or Steven, means "crown"; God indeed crowned our year with bounty!]

*And Your paths drip with  
fatness.*

Wishing you a year full of divine fat drippings,  
*The Niblocks*