

# French REDEMPTION PROJECT

*'Sharing hope in the French Speaking World'*

*To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. Acts 26: 18*

Bonjour!

March 4, 2012

Very early in the month of February, a well dressed man somewhat less than 40 years old came by to visit with me. He told me that he was a pastor looking for some bible training. I pointed him to a bible institute program and then he explained to me that he is a gypsy and that His father started a church among a group of 'Roma' Gypsies (his own people) about 25 years ago right here in Lille. They spend a good part of their time in France, but move around through other European countries too.

After talking a while, he asked me to spend one hour a day with him until the end of March, when he would have to leave and I would have to return to the US to teach at the Missionary Training School in Spencer, Ohio. I got his number and prayed about it. Honestly, I was skeptical as to the practicality of it and of his sincerity at first. Later that day the Holy Spirit impressed me to call him back and invite him to come the next morning for an initial 'class'. He brought his 24 year old brother with him, both well-dressed and ready with their bibles and notebooks. We passed 2 productive hours together.

Over the past month, we've spent numerous hours in discipleship and ministry training. I'm impressed with their sincerity and humility. We are 'redeeming the time' by meeting nearly everyday to go over biblical teachings that I believe can shape a servant of God. They have been very flexible to work around my schedule since I'm covering the pastoral duties at l'Eglise Baptiste du Centre, in Lille. At times, other leaders from their church have joined us for class. The hand of God has been evident in setting this up.

Of all the ethnic groups in France, the gypsies have been the most evangelized, but they often lack sound doctrine. The majority are influenced by cults and by the occult. The time spent with these men, and future opportunities like it, have the potential to make a huge difference as they assimilate and duplicate the biblical teaching they receive. I would be at a loss to express my gratitude to our Lord for the privilege of investing in the lives and ministries of these fine servants. Please know that it could not be happening without your faithful prayer and support. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Mark Gostlin*



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