

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

July 4, 2011

Bonjour !

After a profitable Spring in the US, highlighted by the annual Good Shepherd Baptist Mission-Missionary Training School in Spencer, Ohio, where I am always thankful to part of the leadership/teaching staff, it's good to get back to Francophone territory. In May, I secured a visa from the French consulate and have now submitted the paperwork for residency in France. The final days of June involved helping Bro. Tim Knickerbocker along side one of last year's Apollos members, Christophe Jaubert, to set up the tents and prepare the grounds for the summer camps at Camp Arc-En-Ciel. July is set aside for intensive language training at the Alliance Française in Lyon. Please pray for continued progress in the language.

***A slice of church life in France:** Since I am spending this month of language school in an environment where the two options are either to use public transport or to go on foot (usually on foot) and because of the rarity of bible believing churches in France, it was necessary to use the internet to find a church that is fairly easy to get to. They do exist in most of the larger cities, though they are generally very small and very few. On Saturday I charted the way to a church for Sunday AM. At the address, no sign of church-life nor indication of the existence of a church meeting anywhere could be found. Since the hour for Sunday worship was passing quickly, it was quite a disappointment. Walking back another way in hopes that a church along the route might be found resulted in a visit to a one that looked quite inviting with a large sign and wide open doors. Sadly, the experience was spiritually deadening. It was a rather typical 'Health and Welfare' gathering where the pastor spent most of the service preparing people to give sacrificial offerings as a means to motivate God to perform miracles in their lives. The need for the churches that preach of gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is evident. By God's grace, on Monday after class, as I passed by the place where I had found no church on Sunday, I spotted a man on a balcony and asked about where a church might be in the area and he directed me to a building nearby where I met a lady who supplied the information about where the church is currently meeting. Ask, seek, and knock.*

We are looking forward to September and the start of the next year for Apollos with a new team that will form to serve the Lord all over France for the following 10 months. Thank you for the faithful prayer and support that enables us to serve our wonderful Lord in the French speaking world.

Sincerely,

Mark Gostlin



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