

Bringing Light to the field of

France



Third Quarter 2008

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Dear Friends and Family,

France has always been regarded by the Catholic Church as the "eldest daughter" of the church due to the great majority of French people claiming to be Catholic. For many years it was estimated that 84% of the population was Roman Catholic. Some might believe that these numbers are still accurate, with the recent papal visit in the Hexagon. However the religious profile of France has been shifting throughout the years, giving us a new perspective on the faith of the French people. Indeed this poll showed that **62%** of the 64 million people in France referred to their faith as being Roman Catholic, 7% Muslim, 2% Protestant, 1% Jewish, 2% "other religions," 26% "no religion," and 1% declined to answer.

One might think: "Great! The Catholic Church is losing ground," but the same person would then be shocked by the following. An October 2006 poll addressed solely to Catholics established that 17% of French Catholics didn't believe in God. Among the believers, 79% described Him as a "force, energy, or spirit" and only 18% as a personal God. So yes, the Church of Rome is losing ground but sadly not to the true Gospel of Jesus-Christ. Secularism and atheism have almost always had strong holds in France, but it appears that their ranks are increasingly changing. Yes, France is definitely a hard field, where most of the seeds fall by the wayside and are eaten by the fowls. But praise God lives are still being changed by the power of Christ's blood even in such spiritual darkness.

We would like to thank every one of you for the role you have in helping us bring Light to the field of France, by joining the decreasing number of the few good servants who have dedicated their lives for the cause of Christ in the land of Voltaire. Pray with us for more servants to go to France!

This summer has been one of many events. We started with a junior camp in Minnesota, where I brought a series on the spiritual crowns we can win through the service of our Lord. I was personally blessed by being able to lead a young girl to the Lord. We praise God for the many decisions that were made during that week. We also had the opportunity to present our ministry to several churches in Minnesota. We then headed back home to Illinois. In August we travelled south to the Fort Worth, Texas, area to present our ministry to three churches. The Lord decided that we will have to go back down to Texas, as two of these churches took us on for support. We also had a very good time with Dan Knickerbocker, my wife's uncle, who is the president of the Crown Southwest/Norris Seminary.

Farmtastic, is held annually on the second Saturday of September in Rochelle, Illinois. It is a ministry to the youth that our sending church organizes every year. I was glad to be home that week to help out by setting up tents and games. That week many of us at First Baptist Church fervently prayed for good weather, so many teens would come and that the preaching of God's Word would touch the hearts of these young people. Well, God decided to try us and to teach us a lesson of faith. The rain was so bad that week that the field where the event was to take place was only accessible by canoe. ☺ So Pastor Cowan wisely transferred the event to the building of FBC. We were not sure how many churches would still come, but then the question quickly became: Are we going to be able to fit them all in!?!? By God's grace all 782 teens and sponsors were able to stay dry and hear the Word of God. So what was the lesson? Whatever happens, God's Word will be preached! I thank God for our pastor and our church, for their vision and desire to reach these teenagers amid the hard work, difficulties, hardships, and turmoil such a ministry can produce. What an example they are for us.

The following day we were back on the deputation trail with a meeting in a new and growing work in Huntley, Illinois. After the service we started our journey to Decatur, Alabama, for a missions conference. We intended to stop in Indiana to visit a church, but not in the way we intended! The rain that came down in Northern Illinois that week produced floods, causing parts of Interstate 80-94 to be under water. It took us 2 1/2 hours to drive one mile on the Interstate. Then the State Patrol finally came and made us turn around. On Monday we arrived in Decatur and participated in an excellent conference with Dr. Shumpert of BIMM as the main speaker.

This week we will be travelling to Pennsylvania for meetings and conferences and will be on the road until the end of "Missions Conference Season" the end of November.

In less spiritual news, our budget had to be readjusted in July, so it was with a "pinch in the heart," as the French say, that we saw our support level go down from 46% to 39%. As we have gained new support, it now stands at about 43%. Continue to pray with us that many more churches will see the urgency to produce and send more missionaries, not only to the 64 million souls in France but also to the 6 billion around the world today.

Pray that we will be back in France next year! This would be possible if all the churches where we have presented our ministry would take us on at only \$25 a month!

Our family certainly is thankful to God for your prayers, your encouragement, and your support.

For His glory,

Jeremie, Damaris, and Adam Dodeler

Exchange Rates

\$1 = € 0.7092- Sep 07
\$5283 = € 3746

\$1 = € 0.6896- sep 08
\$5283 = € 3643

Prayer Requests



1. For our lives to glorify God
2. For our quick return to France, Lord willing in 2009
3. For more meetings to be scheduled
4. For our coworkers: the Abbetts, Dodelers, and Knickerbockers
5. For more missionaries for the country of France
6. Protection on the road as we travel great distances
7. A stronger dollar