

Report for the French-speaking Countries

In the French-speaking region of Europe (France, Belgium, and Switzerland), there are currently seven local churches: in Paris, Lyon, Bordeaux, Dieppe, Strasbourg, Brussels, and Lausanne. In addition to these seven established churches, there are 10 to 15 localities where there are groups of saints. The saints very much enjoy the blending and fellowship with the saints in the other localities. We have the feeling of being one church.

Paris

This year has certainly been a time of changes and new beginnings for the church in Paris. At the beginning of the year, one of the leading brothers was asked to return to Taiwan to take care of an urgent need there. This was a great loss for the church, but at the same time we realized that it was a privilege for us to give up a vital member for the Lord's need in a different part of the world. The Lord blessed our giving in life, in numbers, and in the increased function of the saints. We are seeing that more saints are being brought into their organic function in the church. As in so many other churches, the pandemic caused us to move our church life more into the realm of small groups and personal contact. Many saints have testified that having this kind of a practical church life has been an excellent experience and that they feel they have touched something of the vital groups.

Lyon

Three years ago, we started to pray and cooperate with the Lord for His testimony in the southern part of France. The Lord raised up a small number of saints and seekers in Marseilles, Nice, Montpellier, and Toulouse. These are all large and important cities in southern France. However, the severe restrictions in place because of the pandemic have impacted our ability to visit and shepherd these groups. We pray desperately for these cities that the local saints will be strengthened and encouraged to go on.

Strasbourg

Although we are in an unprecedented situation caused by the pandemic and the lockdown, we have "continued steadfastly in the teaching and the fellowship of the apostles" (Acts 2:42) via online meetings and conferences. The outward stress and constraints awakened our inward awareness to Him and His purpose for this particular time. The white horse continues to run among us in Strasbourg, both in the bearing of fruit through personal contact with others and in the distribution of the Recovery Version.

Dieppe

We praise the Lord for His faithfulness, love, and grace. The saints' experience of life has been steadily increasing, and this infusion of life has resulted in fruit being born and families being gained. The saints here are also cooperating with the Lord for what He is doing in the nearby city of Rouen (a major city in Normandy). We are in constant fellowship with eight believers. It has also been a joy for us to have regular blending with other churches through the Internet and in particular, through visits from the saints in Paris.

Lausanne

The church in Lausanne has been distributing Bibles this summer and has found very open people. We are now following up with these contacts, including some from the gospel time

during the last winter Olympics in Lausanne. We have also been enjoying online blending times with the saints from Switzerland and many other regions.

Bordeaux

The church in Bordeaux has been strengthened by a number of saints migrating here. Our burdens for the near future are to labor to raise up the Lord's testimony in the city of Toulouse and as the pandemic eases, to have increased blending with the church in Lyon.

Brussels

There are over 55 active saints who meet with the church in Brussels. Approximately two-thirds of the saints practice the church life in French and one-third practice the church life in English. The saints represent 15 different nationalities and many different languages.

Bibles for Europe & Bible Study Follow-up

A recent highlight of the Lord's move in French-speaking Europe is the Bible distribution and follow-up Bible studies. We are following the practice of the saints in the British Isles to conduct one-on-one Bible studies with Bible recipients. We have over 15,000 recipients in French-speaking Europe who have elected to receive further information. These Bible studies will be conducted by over 50 saints in France, Belgium, and Switzerland. All the infrastructure has been established, and the Bible studies are scheduled to begin by the beginning of November. We are anticipating that there will be over 100 weekly Bible studies taking place by the end of the year. Our view is that these Bible studies will not only be a way to shepherd the seeking ones into the ministry of the age but also a way to shepherd the saints into the God-ordained way and practice of the church life.

Further information is available by visiting legliseaparis.fr
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