

# **Gospel Highlights and Shepherding Trips**

## **February 2025**

### **From the Shepherd's Tent**

“We first heard of the planned gospel trips during the Olympics from saints we knew serving in London. After much prayer and fellowship, we applied. The result is that the Lord arranged for us to serve in both OL 2 in Geneva and OL 4 in Lille. While I am 75 and my wife is 72, we stepped out in faith that the Lord would supply us and take care of our health and physical needs. We felt so energized during the whole time we were serving. It was so enjoyable serving with the other saints from around the world. The leading brothers surely looked after us, making sure we weren't overburdened in our schedule. The best part was distributing the Bibles and sharing the Word with all these new ones we met. While a lot of them were French-speaking, it wasn't a problem since there were French-speaking saints nearby to help. After spending time in Lille, we went home but were both restless; we knew of the burden to shepherd all these new ones in Lille: How were the local saints going to do this? In fellowship with the saints in our locality and our family, they all gave us the green light to go! After we took care of some issues at home, the Lord arranged for us to return for nearly three months. While back home we shared about our time in Europe, and the Lord encouraged others to come and help shepherd after us.

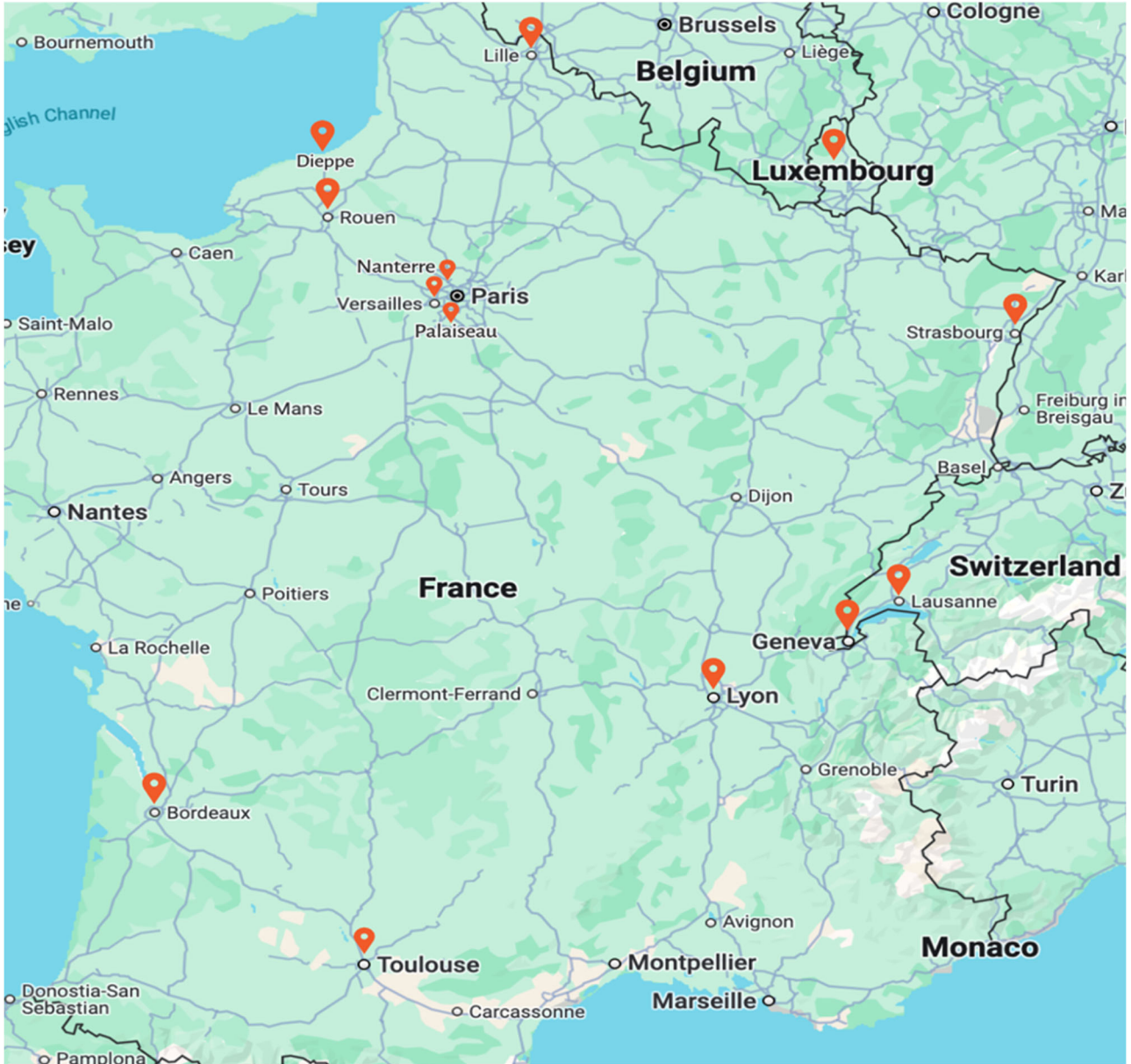
What I shared with the saints is that the Lord needs ones here to come and shepherd these new ones; otherwise, they will return to the world. The churches need to be raised up in the different cities both in France and the other French-speaking countries in Europe. Once these lampstands are established, the Lord will have a way to return.

You can come, whatever your age; there is a need for saints of all ages to come and serve. A leading brother said, 'Even if it's just to come and drive the saints around, just come.'

On a personal note: Nearly every week my wife and I both shed a few tears when we hear the sharing from the local saints, especially with the load that they are under. Saints need to come and see. We can tell them how beautiful the mountains are in France, but until they come, there's no personal 'appreciation of the scenery.' ”

### **Prayer Burdens**

1. Lord, call more to come for the shepherding trips.
2. Lord, we need 50 (not 20) full-timers to labor to care for all that You have done. Lord, call those who will give themselves to labor here.
3. Lord, stir us up to follow You to migrate.
4. Lord, release all the visas so that saints can come!
5. Lord, bring so many of these new ones to the French-speaking conference in Paris this April.



## **HIGHLIGHTS FROM TRAINEES' RECENT GOSPEL TRIPS**

Sixty-seven from FTTA and FTTL arrived in Paris, where they met in the church in Paris' meeting hall for blending and orientation with the local saints. "We enjoyed Luke 4:18-19, where we see we should be those who proclaim the Jubilee to others!" An introduction was given to the Christian history of France and how the Lord had some who were pure in heart and faithfully stood for His testimony over the centuries.

The 67 saints were then put into 11 different teams and sent to the following places: Paris, Palaiseau, Nanterre, Versailles, Lille, Dieppe/Rouen, Bordeaux/Toulouse, Lyon, Strasbourg, Luxembourg, and Lausanne/Geneva, Switzerland, to join with local saints laboring in each city. They joined the Lord's move in French-speaking Europe from January 23 through February 7. We were so thankful for the coming of the FTTA and FTTL trainees. They and the local saints experienced these three blessings:

- Blending - Sweet blending with the local saints and all the saints on the shepherding trip.
- Shepherding – We were joined together to shepherd the new ones.
- Gospel – May the Lord keep these new ones who were contacted as remaining fruit.

### **Paris**

During the Bible distribution, several students at the nearby university came up to us asking for Bibles, and we got contact information from several of them. In the evening we attended a small group meeting and met a French gospel new one. We had lunch with a new one in her home whom we had met from the Bible distribution to spend time with her and her children.

After morning coordination we went out on the gospel. We passed out 39 out of the 40 Bibles that we brought. One person we met was saved two years ago and is still enjoying the joy of her salvation. During the conversation, as the trainees shared verses, she wrote the verses down in her journal with her favorite verses. She agreed to an appointment the same day and said she would bring her friend (who was the one who preached the gospel to her). This time was very encouraging, and we will have another appointment with her tomorrow. We also talked to a Catholic student. We will read the Bible with her next Tuesday also. Another appointment was made with a family of four adults and three children. We will meet them on Thursday to deliver Spanish Bibles to them.

One particular student was very attentive and grasped what we were saying. We spoke to him for about 20 minutes before he invited us to have pizza. One of the trainee brothers went with him and spent an hour with him. The student shared his struggles and said that it was fate that he came to campus and met us today, because of his situation and his feeling like giving up. He is very seeking for human connection and is open for another appointment.

We met with a mother who invited us to her home with a burden for us to speak to her children about Jesus. We met this woman a few days ago during the Bible distribution. In the two hours that we were at her home, she opened up to us and also encouraged her children to share about their experiences of the Lord. We talked about the importance of prayer, and the

children shared that Jesus is their best friend. We sang "It is I" with them and fellowshiped about the significance of inviting the Lord into our boats. Afterward, we had further fellowship about getting into the Word of God and calling on the name of the Lord. We gave two of the older children an English and a French Bible, which they were very thankful for. The mother expressed that she wanted to invite her other family members to meet us and have fellowship. She also wanted her overseas family members to receive Bibles. Before we left the mother invited us to come again.

We had a lunch appointment with a local French woman. We listened to her family situation, prayed for her, and encouraged her to contact the Lord. She was very touched. We will have another appointment on Monday with her before going to the home meeting that same night. Our prayer burden is for her to continue to be with the saints in the environment of the church, as well as that she will be open to the Lord in a personal way to have Him as her joy, supply, and rest every day.

The night before the home meeting we had a time with a French woman whom we had met a few days before.

A local sister joined us today during Bible distribution and led two young people to receive the Lord through prayer. In the afternoon two sisters went to have an appointment with a positive new one.

Six new ones whom we had met during our distributions came to our harvest meeting!

### **Paris Prayer Burden**

- Thank You Lord, for these new ones! Add more of these new ones to the group meetings in central Paris! Lord, arrange all the appointments to meet with these ones.

### **Lille**

Our team joined the saints for shepherding appointments: the sisters met with two new ones, and the brothers met with two other new ones. We had a very sweet time of singing, fellowshiping, and eating together.

Our team had a blending time in the home of one of the families in Lille. Their son got baptized! How precious it was to hear his testimony and to see him function in the meeting and call upon the name of the Lord with a very exercised spirit!

We had a very sweet time of coordination with the local saints in the morning. In the afternoon we had three shepherding appointments together with the local saints and the new ones we had just met. In the evening one of the new ones who has been regularly meeting with the saints for a few months took us on a tour of the city. We were able to be with him and get to know him more.

We had a Bible distribution in Lille city center. During the hour and a half, we distributed 115 Bibles, got contact information from 14 persons, and prayed with 4 people to receive the Lord. Although it was slightly raining and quite windy, the Lord still had a way to reach His people.

The brothers had a few appointments in the afternoon. In the first appointment we pray-read a few verses, sang a few songs, and were nourished by our time together. Another brother we spent time with is very open and was impressed with how the ministry opens up the Bible. He wants to meet again next week before we leave. In our final appointment over dinner, the brother we met has a desire to pursue the Lord in his university years. After dinner we prayed that we would all continue to run the race together.

We spent time with a college sister from Lille who grew up in the church life in Brussels. She also joined us with the local saints in our appointment with a new sister she had met during the Olympics and who is still meeting with the saints! We had a very sweet time of singing, fellowship, and eating together.

We had a Bible distribution in the afternoon. The people were so open and willing to get a Bible, give their contact information, and talk with us! We distributed 103 Bibles, got personal contact information from 34, and prayed with 4 people to receive the Lord. In the evening we had a home meeting to shepherd a new couple who has been meeting with the saints since the Olympics. We had a very joyful and organic time of singing hymns, reading the ministry, and sharing our enjoyment.

The sisters with some local saints had a lunch-time home meeting to shepherd a new sister. She has been meeting regularly. After going through the three volumes of *Basic Elements of the Christian Life*, she is now pursuing *The Economy of God* with the saints. In the evening the team gathered with all the shepherding saints to have an overflow meeting. We had a very sweet time of eating and enjoying the Lord together.

We had 4 shepherding appointments. One of the appointments was with a new one we had met during the Bible distribution last week. The three other new ones have been meeting with the saints for a few months now.

The sisters had a home meeting with the local saints and one of the gospel friends. She really enjoyed our time together and got connected with two local sisters for continual shepherding. Praise the Lord!

We were very cherished to have the saints come to say goodbye to us at the train station. They and the many new ones in Lille are written on our hearts!

### **Two Shepherd's Notes from Lille**

\* This is my second trip (5 weeks) to participate in the Lord's move in France. I am here in Lille with the same travel companions that I had during this past summer gospel trips: I and couple also from New Zealand served in OL2 in Geneva and OL4 in Lille in July/August 2024. The three of us have all retired. I am 67.

After having several meetings with the new ones, the most striking thing on this trip is the new ones' growth in life. It is such a privilege and blessing to witness this phenomenon!

I realized that through the consistent care and proper feeding of these new ones, the life in them is growing! The life practices of calling on the Lord's name and pray-reading are passing on from the shepherds to these precious lambs. They are singing and reading through the ministry materials each meeting!

The ministry materials are so NEW and FRESH to me when I read them with the new ones, though I have already read through many of them several times prior!

I sensed a mutual shepherding between the shepherds and the lambs! I am energized and revitalized after each meeting.

May the Lord gain what is in His heart in Lille, in France, in Europe and throughout the globe. May He move many more shepherds from many countries to France/Europe to continue His work here to close the age!

\*What a privilege to come back again to Lille and enter into the shepherding of all the Lord's lambs who were gained through the Olympic trips! I am eternally grateful to the Lord for allowing me to come and join with the local saints here, who have been very welcoming and cherishing to me. I never thought I would ever be able to be useful to the Lord in this way, but after our OL trips and the fellowship we received, I had the deep impression that the Lord really needs us, even in our "golden" years. I am 72 years old and retired, just a little member of the Body of Christ, not qualified in any way, but I had the realization that the Lord had given me my health, the means to participate, and a window of opportunity, so I should simply say Amen and answer His call. Amazingly, my husband had the same feeling! I knew that we would never regret this! It has been so worth it! We have been here for nearly 3 months, and already I feel the Lord has perfected me.

My spirit has been refreshed and released! My oldness and staleness seems to have disappeared, and the Lord has been so real and living to me. He has shepherded my soul in giving me the opportunity to shepherd these new ones. How sweet and faithful He is. All the new ones here are so accepting of us, and already I feel they have been wrought into my heart. When I look around at all the local shepherding saints in Lille, I realize that when we go home, they will be under a tremendous burden, and even some of these dear new ones may be lost. Oh, this really stirs my heart and causes me to pray to the Lord to thrust out the workers. Come and see the saints in Lille! Come and see the saints in one accord! O Lord Jesus, we love You!

### **Prayer Burdens for Lille**

- A good number of new ones have made great progress throughout these past months. Pray that they will get into the riches of the morning revival so that they can set up a habit of taking the time to be with the Lord each morning. It will be a big step for them and also for the church life in Lille.
- Lord, thank You for all the ones who are coming on the shepherding trips.

## Nanterre

We arrived in Nanterre, joined the young people's meeting, heard the testimonies of many young people, and also shared some of our own testimonies as well. It was touching to see how the more experienced saints were caring for the young ones in order to cultivate their taste for the Lord.

The local saints and the brothers and sisters on the team had appointments with new ones to shepherd one another. We felt a seamless immersion into the burden of the saints for these new ones.

41 Bibles were distributed, and we exchanged contact information with 11 new ones on a rainy day in Nanterre. The people of Nanterre were intrigued as to why we were out in the cold and rain. This testimony of the Lord seemed to draw people in!

We met a French student for lunch, and later her fiancé joined us. We gave her fiancé a Bible, and we are praying that they will join the meetings.

We have been enjoying the weekend conference with all the local saints. Quite a few newer ones (contacted in Nanterre during the OLs) came to this small conference! Praise the Lord for the way He has been building and knitting us together!

### **Nanterre Prayer Burdens**

- Lord, keep growing in the ones You gained through the OL trips!
- Lord, send more to shepherd one-on-one with the new ones we just met.

## Versailles

We had a coordination time with the local saints and then went out for Bible distribution in a busy intersection near the Palace of Versailles. In total we distributed 22 Bibles and got contact information from 7 people. We were surprised by how many people were open to talking about the Bible and then received a Bible, especially the younger locals. Even though most of us couldn't speak French, they still were willing to speak to us in English to receive a Bible. In the evening we had blending time with the serving team, and two families also joined us with their kids. We had an enjoyable time of fellowship, hearing their testimonies and their sharing about their life in Versailles, and playing with their kids. Though these local saints work full time and are busy with family life, they poured out for us. They cooked meals and joined us in our contacting of people whenever possible. They are so active and burdened for the Lord to raise up the church in Versailles.

We passed out more Bibles today and received more contact information from people (more than yesterday!). Like yesterday, the young people seemed particularly open and eager to receive Bibles, but we also had a good number of middle-age locals who were interested. We

invited these new ones to dinner and Bible study. In the evening we had a gospel dinner. The Lord answered our prayers by bringing a seeking middle-age Haitian man, whom we met today while distributing Bibles. He was happy to see us and also had many questions, which led to much fellowship. In the end after singing a song, we invited him to come to the Lord's table meeting and conference outside of Paris this Lord's Day, and he left with a brighter countenance.

We moved to a major train station. We had many meaningful conversations, and two people prayed to receive the Lord.

We preached the gospel and distributed Bibles at a busy intersection. One of the students who prayed to receive the Lord mentioned that she had been reading the Bible and was struggling to understand what she was reading. She was looking online to purchase a study Bible but could not find one that she liked. As she was walking in our direction today, she was praying to the Lord for a way to get a study Bible so that she could know Him more, and then she found us! We had good fellowship, led her to pray to receive the Lord, and exchanged contact information.

Today we distributed 46 Bibles, obtained contact information from 11 people, and led one to receive the Lord. We also had an appointment of sweet fellowship with one of the students we met during the Bible distribution. We shared our testimonies with each other, made deeper connections, and made plans to read the Bible together over the phone on a regular basis. In another appointment with a university student, we had open fellowship concerning our experiences being a Christian.

In the evening we had a gospel dinner where one of our new ones came. At the end of the meeting, she said that this was her first time joining a Bible study, and that she loved it. We invited her to the harvest meeting and will pray for the Lord to open the way for her to come.

### **Versailles Prayer Burden**

Lord, cause some to migrate to Versailles to labor together with us for the church life in this city!

### **Palaiseau**

This morning there was a glorious Lord's table meeting at the meeting hall in Palaiseau, where districts 3 and 4 of the church in Paris combined for a time of blending. We were touched from the saints' sharing that grace is God coming not only to visit man but to stay with man, be born in man, and be one with man. We are here to convey this grace to the French people!

This afternoon we distributed 31 Bibles at a train station. We are realizing that we need the prayers of the saints in order that the Lord will strengthen us to exercise our spirit of power, love, and sober-mindedness even when we are overwhelmed by the language barrier.

We went to the university to speak with students today. One student of Muslim background whom we met yesterday came to dinner this evening and enjoyed her time with us. We sang



“Just Taste and See” and fellowshiped over Romans 10:13, and we could feel the prayers of the saints carrying the time. We had a number of positive lengthy conversations with students from the university that resulted in exchange of contact information and plans for future meetups. Every night this week the saints will be hosting dinner at the meeting hall for new ones and students to join. At the first dinner tonight, two existing new students came and helped the team learn to speak “The Mystery of Human Life” in French. This resulted in an atmosphere of mutuality.

In the afternoon we visited a student with one of the local serving brothers. The student came back several minutes later to ask for the brother’s contact information. In the evening, we had a Bible study with the serving saints and one student with whom the saints have been reading the Bible. It was wonderful to read together in French and to be built with one another.

Two sisters had a lunch appointment with a freshman student who was met by one of the sisters while riding the bus. The appointment was spent talking about human matters, but she was very willing to come to dinner at the meeting hall this evening. When she came, it became very clear that the Lord had divinely arranged for her to meet the saints. Although her family is not Christian, she said that she was a Christian because she had Christian friends in high school. However, when asked if she had ever prayed to receive the Lord, she replied that she didn’t know how. We gave her a free Bible and went through “The Mystery of Human Life,” and she prayed to receive the Lord! She lingered for a while after the meeting and said multiple times that she wants to come back tomorrow night for the student Bible study. Her heart seems so soft and open toward the Lord, and our prayer is that she will become remaining fruit. A gospel friend of a brother in Nanterre also attended the dinner, and at the very end of the time she received the Lord as well. She took a free Bible and wants to come back next week.

On Saturday morning we distributed 61 Bibles at a train station and received the contact information of seven individuals. A student sister who was contacted during one of the Olympic gospel trips also came with us! She has been spending time with the sisters nearly every day, and we have become very burdened for her growth in life. On Saturday evening and Lord’s Day afternoon, the church in Paris held a conference for the church and those we contacted this week. This student sister came to all three meetings, as well as the Lord’s table meeting. A new one we met Saturday morning during the Bible distribution also came to all three meetings! We hope that an appointment can be arranged with him and one of the local serving brothers soon. This evening we had dinner and a sweet time of fellowship with the Versailles team and some of the saints in Versailles. One of the students we met earlier in the week joined us. This week the team is focusing on follow-up appointments with students that were met during the OL gospel trips and the new ones we met last week. Meanwhile, a few sisters had an appointment with one of the new ones who came to dinner last week.

One group of sisters had a lunch appointment with two new ones we met last Monday. We found out that one of them is a Christian who is seeking fellowship, but that the bus schedule makes it difficult for her to meet in the evenings. Both new ones were connected with local sisters who also came to the appointment.

Another group of sisters had an appointment with a Christian who has been looking for a church to meet with. She said that she will come to the harvest meeting tomorrow night. While they were having lunch, two more people came by and had positive conversations with the sisters.

Finally, a brother met a recent graduate anxious about finding a job. After offering to pray for him, the brother found out that he also is a Christian and shared that the Jubilee means having no worries or anxiety. The young man said that the brother was like an angel sent from the Lord to him, and we are hopeful that he will come to the harvest meeting.

This evening, two students who prayed to receive the Lord last week joined us for dinner and fellowship. Both lingered to spend more time with us, and everyone left with a sweet impression.

We visited a brother at a Paris campus. In the evening two new ones came to dinner, including the young man we met yesterday. We had very sweet fellowship on how to eat Jesus, and everyone left knowing that God is good for food!

### **Palaiseau Prayer Burdens**

- Lord, keep the new ones from this gospel time coming to meet with us!
- Lord, continue to grow in the ones we meet with from the earlier gospel trips.

## **Rouen and Dieppe**

Today we met the saints in Rouen. On Saturdays the saints hold a home meeting focused on nourishing new saints, and we had the opportunity to participate. We went through the second chapter of *The Basic Elements of the Christian Life* in French and afterward had some very sweet fellowship. We were freshly touched that our reading of the Word should be a matter of eating and that no matter what language we speak, we can exercise our spirit to express Christ and what He has been doing in us! Today the brothers and sisters on the team both spent time with some new ones that we met at the Lord's table meeting in Dieppe and the Saturday home meeting in Rouen. Both appointments were positive and encouraging. A brother from Dieppe also came to support. We joined a weekly prayer and coordination time for Rouen with saints from France, the UK and the US.

We participated in the Lord's table in Dieppe. After the meeting, the brothers and sisters split up to each shepherd a gospel friend over dinner.

We had a conference in Dieppe. Saints from London came to blend, and we enjoyed a love feast together. Afterward, we got groceries with one gospel friend and had dinner with another gospel friend.

Our team had several appointments set up a table near a campus in Rouen.

A pair of sisters and a local new one we met last Thursday, had lunch and went over "Is Jesus in Your Boat?" Another pair met up with a former classmate who is now studying in Rouen and connected her with a local new one. The rest of the team handed out Bibles and invited new ones to tomorrow evening's meeting.

### **Rouen and Dieppe Prayer Burden**

- Lord, may all the saints keep the sweet oneness in the coordination with saints from UK, Dieppe, and Paris to raise up the church life in Rouen and strengthen the church in Dieppe.

### **Strasbourg**

After arriving in Strasbourg, we attended a meeting to introduce ourselves and share short testimonies. The next day we attended the Lord's table meeting, met many of the local saints, and visited a couple in their home.

We held our first Bibles for Europe (BFE) tabling event near the University. With some local saints we set up two tables offering free Bibles. That evening we joined an elderly couple at their home for dinner and fellowship.

Despite initial language barriers, we were pleasantly surprised by the students' openness. Many approached the tables directly to receive a free Bible, while others patiently listened as we shared, aided by the translation of a local saint.

We tabled for BFE near a campus with some local saints. We attended prayer meetings online and in person.

Today, we tabled for BFE at a plaza with some of the saints. In the evening, we had dinner with a local family and their children.

We distributed Bibles near a university. We were able to fellowship with an older lady at the table regarding the Word of God and her experience of the Lord.

This evening seven new ones came to the seminar, which covered the topic of "The Tree of Life." We were greatly encouraged at the turnout at the seminar because of all the prayers of the saints. One of these new ones came to the Lord's table meeting the next day.

### **Strasbourg Prayer Burden**

- Lord, grant us the way to stay connected to these seven new ones!

### **Toulouse and Bordeaux**

On the train to Toulouse on Saturday, we had a divine appointment with a family of three. At the end of the appointment, we gave one French New Testament Bible and one French "Mystery of Human Life" tract to the family.

This Lord's Day morning we met with the saints in Toulouse and many new ones to enjoy the Lord and cover Acts 11. The majority of the saints shared, including the new ones! After the meeting a new one was baptized! We enjoyed a love feast together. We spent the rest of the day with the saints in downtown Toulouse.

On Monday morning we had the first coordination for the trip at a saint's house. The saints laboring here presently are from Spain, Mexico, and Korea. In the afternoon we split into two

teams at different metro stops to give out Bibles and gospel tracts. We spent time with the saints for the rest of the day and had dinner at a new one's home.

We met more open ones in our gospel time. More people are open to receive the Bible and have conversations with us. Many showed interest in attending the Thursday night gospel meeting. In the evening, we had a college students' meeting. We enjoyed the Lord by singing and reading John chapter 8. The overflow was very enjoyable.

During the Bible distribution time we met many open people. Some prayed to receive the Lord and some had lengthy conversations with us. We sang at a major metro station and discovered that it created a warm atmosphere for people to approach us and receive a Bible. A local sister who was gained a few months ago joined us this week for coordination and Bible distribution. She has been bubbling over with the Spirit and has the joy of the Lord in her gospel preaching. It has been so refreshing to see her fresh enjoyment of sharing the Lord with the people in her city. At night we had dinner with the laboring saints and participated in the prayer meeting.

Today during our gospel time, we met many open ones and gave out all our French Bibles. We also conversed with people from Germany and Australia and gave out English Bibles to them. At night we had a gospel meeting with 25 local saints and 9 new ones. We covered the topic of "What is the Church?" and split up into small groups. At the end of the meeting 2 new ones shared their enjoyment, and many were interested in attending the small group meeting the next day.

Today is the last day of Bible distribution this week in Toulouse. Some of our new ones joined and had positive experiences. We met many open ones and had high-quality conversations with people who have Christian backgrounds. In the evening we had a home meeting with about 30 saints (some of whom have only been meeting a few months!), including two new ones that came to yesterday's gospel meeting. We read and shared from Ephesians 5 concerning the church as the bride of Christ. One of the new ones definitely decided to be baptized while the other appreciated us for answering the questions he had from reading the Bible.

Today was our second day in Bordeaux, and we went out with the local saints with the view of not merely distributing a large volume of Bibles but primarily having conversations with people and receiving their contact information. We had 15 quality conversations, with 6 people praying to receive the Lord. Of these 6, one was extremely open. After a short conversation, we left but had the feeling to return with boldness and ask him if he wanted to pray to receive the Lord. He did, and we left again, but had a deeper feeling to return with boldness and ask if he wanted to be baptized. To our surprise, he said he wanted to be baptized. With the help of the local saints, we booked a hotel room nearby and baptized him in the bathtub. Before and after baptizing him, we read through some verses to help him understand the significance of baptism. Before he was baptized, he prayed, saying that he had been considering his life for some years and was ready to receive a new life and have a fresh start. After baptizing him, we had dinner together and had more sweet fellowship before returning to Toulouse. We also plan to have a phone appointment with him to read the Bible tomorrow.

We distributed Bibles near a nearby university in Toulouse. The response was so overwhelming that we had to go to get more Bibles. During the entire time each team member was engaged in a meaningful conversation. The Lord really answered our prayer to declare His victory over the young people in Toulouse.

In the evening, we joined a gospel meeting for college students. Someone new who was contacted last week joined the meeting and got baptized! We are very encouraged that the Lord answered our prayer for multiple baptisms during our time in Toulouse and Bordeaux.

### **Prayer Burdens**

- Lord, the fields are white in Toulouse! Send forth the laborers!
- Lord, give us the way through phone appointments to read the Bible with the newly saved and baptized brother in Bordeaux.

## **Luxembourg**

We are in a spiritual warfare, and it was made very clear today in Luxembourg. It was both rainy and windy only when we were out on the gospel. We had experiences where it started to rain harder right at a critical moment. One time was as they were about to exchange numbers, and another was when the person was about to pray "Lord Jesus, I love You." But Christ is Victor! And we were able to still exchange contact information and pray with our new one without hindrance. The saints here are laboring in 2 cities: Esch, which has many open 2nd and 3rd generation Portuguese-speaking families, and Belval, which is a city near Esch and has a university.

Our prayers were answered! There was good weather, and we had many open and seeking ones. Contact information was exchanged, and a handful are willing to meet up for coffee sometime this week or next week.

An encouraging report is that a new one said she has already started to read the Bible that she received yesterday. She prayed to receive the Lord. We have come across many people who told us they have been meaning to purchase a Bible recently or have been looking for a version of the Bible they could understand. One man, after receiving a Bible, kissed the Bible while walking away from the table because he was so happy to get one.

We have been very impressed and encouraged with our coordination times that are conducted in English, Spanish and French. These times have been wonderful, and the Lord has had a way to truly pour out His blessing in Luxembourg.

Today, we passed out 49 Bibles. People were very open and came up to our table. We met a young woman with a Muslim background who prayed to receive the Lord after speaking with us. She is open to meet us again soon. Another woman who is Catholic was very positive and wants to meet with us for lunch to read the Bible next Tuesday.

We passed out 56 Bibles Saturday in Esch, and the response was very positive; many stopped to read the banners. A woman who took a Bible in Belval last week works in Esch. She was very

excited to see us again and wanted another three Bibles for her friends. Another man saw us and was so grateful that he went home and brought back coffee and waffles for us. Another lady came from Belgium but works in Esch and said she would like to see us again during the week.

On Lord's Day we had the Lord's table meeting with a few new ones in addition to the three families in Luxembourg.

We continued distributing Bibles in Esch. During this time many families approached the table ready to receive a free Bible. It was very refreshing and encouraging for us to see the joy and radiance in people's faces when the Bible landed in their hand.

One encounter was when a girl approached the table and wanted to receive a Bible then immediately asked one of us at the table to approach her mother who was standing nearby and speak to her. Her mother was not always open to hearing the gospel, but after hearing about the three parts of man and receiving a Bible, both mother and daughter were led to receive the Lord. Another encounter was with a college student who joyfully received a Bible and said it was a sign from the Lord. Her expression was surreal when she realized it was a study Bible that will help her understand the Word of God and enjoy it. She then asked to exchange contact information to read the Bible together with someone.

Our Bible distribution concluded with a family that invited the entire team to their home for lunch. This family encountered the saints last year when they were distributing Bibles during the Olympics. They informed us that last year they promised the saints coffee but could no longer find the saints after their first encounter. However, when this family saw us distributing Bibles one year later, they remembered their promise and bought us coffee and invited us over for lunch.

Today the Luxembourg team had a time of overflow to share personal experiences and enjoyments that have occurred throughout the course of this gospel trip. We believe we can all agree that the Lord is moving in a hidden way in Luxembourg to raise up a shining golden lampstand by gaining vital local saints who love and seek the Lord day by day.

We had two appointments today; one was in the morning with a college student who came from Africa for her master's degree and is seeking the Lord's purpose for her being placed here in Luxembourg. We had another appointment in the evening with another student who had many questions about God and His Word. We concluded the day with a sweet time of singing and fellowship that we may continue to be built up with one another to establish a healthy and sanctified church life in Luxembourg for the Lord to add together those who are being saved. We distributed Bibles near the university campus and near the Esch train station during the students' lunch break (where many Portuguese speakers are). Some local saints have participated in the Bible distribution times. Later, we had a few meetings with some who received Bibles and were open to reading with us.

The coordination times have been very sweet and encouraging for all of us. We have been getting into the book *The Jubilee*.

Our Lord's Day meeting had 22 saints at the apartment in Esch, 11 of them from Luxembourg. It was a very sweet and encouraging time.

This last week has been very intense, but we have been refreshed through the preaching of the gospel and very encouraged to meet seekers. One of the people who received a Bible was so happy that she kissed it after receiving it!

From the Bible distribution this past week: 263 Bibles were distributed; we were able to talk with more than 90 people for more than 30 seconds; and at least 13 received the Lord.

### **Luxembourg Prayer Burdens**

- Lord, thank You for raising up a church life in Luxembourg through the members from all over the earth!
- Lord, grow in the ones from the OL trips; cause them to become material for the building

### **A Shepherd's Note**

Since the Fall of 2024 there has been fellowship in the Body concerning how to care for the 2nd and 3rd generation Portuguese-speaking new ones in Esch, Luxembourg. Through the prayer and fellowship, saints from Portugal have been able to come for 2-3 weeks at a time. This has been wonderful! Now through the prayer a couple from Brazil has been able to obtain a visa to remain for 3 months! Praise the Lord!

### **The following is a translation and a summary of their enjoyment since arriving:**

"We have really enjoyed our time since we arrived from Brazil in late December. Since we have been in Luxembourg, the Lord has filled our heart with the burden for the raising up the church life here and has filled our hands with so many dear lambs!"

### **A Shepherding Couple's Day-to-Day Shepherding Life**

We spent some days with a young couple and had a pleasant time together. We read the morning revival during these days and had time to sing together. The husband was concerned about a health issue during the week and testified that as he forgot about his problem and enjoyed the Lord, his situation began to normalize.

We got together with a new one and read about calling on the name of the Lord.

It turns out that one of the new ones in Esch has a number of friends along with other Christians who are open to meet with us.

On the Lord's Day morning we met with 8 saints and a family from Paris who were visiting. A total of 13 were in the meeting (mostly Portuguese-speaking).

We went to a new one's home for dinner with his family. Praise the Lord for the blending at the local family's home!

A couple from Germany who cooperate with the Lord's move in Luxembourg, stayed with us for 6 days to have fellowship. They connected us with some Portuguese-speaking people they met during Bible distribution in Esch and are open to fellowship.

We had an outing with one of the new families and their relative.

We visited a new one who was contacted in Esch during the Bible distribution, with the couple from Germany and a French-speaking sister.

We had lunch at a new one's house with his family and the local French-speaking saints.

This Lord's Day we had a meeting with 12 saints. Two dear gospel friends came also.

Praise the Lord, we moved from Airbnb to the rented apartment! This apartment is in Esch, and having this apartment will greatly help in the meeting with the new ones in this city.

We had dinner and read with a new one.

We entered into the coordination via Zoom for the gospel trip of the trainees to Europe.

We come together weekly with the French-speaking local couple for prayer.

We attended a French class at an association near where we are staying.

We received a visit from a leading brother from Paris. We were very encouraged by our brother's visit and had a lot of fellowship together.

We had dinner together and a good fellowship with the local French-speaking couple and the brother from Paris.

We went into the capital city of Luxembourg to have a time with a new brother. We walked around the capital together and then read a portion of *The Economy of God* and had fellowship about it

Sometimes because of the distance to travel to meet certain ones, we have fellowship and read over the phone. These times are enjoyable!

One of the new families is having us along with new ones for dinner.

This Lord's Day we met with 4 saints and had lunch with 3 new ones. Many brothers couldn't come to the meeting that day, but we were very happy to have the opportunity to spend more intimate time with this family. We had been praying for this for some time.

We had a good time with a new brother. We read *The Economy of God* and had a lot of fellowship. He mentioned that he and his girlfriend want to be baptized in February.

We welcomed the trainees in the afternoon, and in the evening we all went to dinner at a local French-speaking house.



We had a wonderful blending with saints from Germany and gospel friends (90 people in total).

## **Geneva and Lausanne**

Today we traveled from Paris to Lausanne, Switzerland, for day 1 of the gospel trip. We were greeted by the saints, who warmly welcomed us into their home for coordination. Later this evening we had a small home meeting with a family as we sang hymns and got to know each other.

We attended the Lord's table in Lausanne, where there are about 20 saints, including some from Geneva and neighboring cities. Following the Lord's table we had a love feast in which we got to meet more of the local saints and converse with them.

We made our way to the University. Due to the weather, we ate in a cafeteria and had spontaneous conversations with some students. We met one person who is an international student whom we invited to a home meeting on Thursday.

Today we went to the town center of Lausanne and distributed Bibles for around 1.5 hours. Due to the lack of a permit from the city, we were not able to set up a table or approach people, but we some still came to us. Tomorrow we will go out again in the afternoon and go to a home meeting with the local saints afterward.

We had more time to blend with local saints today. We had lunch at the house of a sister who lives an hour from the city, which makes it hard for her to meet often. She was very encouraged that we visited. We had dinner with a couple who met the saints here in Lausanne a year and a half ago. Then we arrived safely in Geneva, where we will spend the rest of our time. Tomorrow we will meet a sister in Geneva for lunch who is also not able to meet because her home is too far from the meeting in Lausanne.

Today we had coordination at a family's home in Geneva. The local saints gave us an update on the current situation concerning the Lord's move here. We stayed for lunch and listened to the testimony of a local couple. In the afternoon we had 2 appointments. For dinner we visited a Korean family that moved here a year ago, and we enjoyed singing and prayers afterward.

We attended the Lord's table in Lausanne. There is currently no lampstand in Geneva so the saints who live in Geneva must travel to Lausanne, which takes about one hour by public transportation. Two new ones visited us, one of whom we met this past week at the Bible distribution in Lausanne.

Today, for lunch we joined a local family that recently migrated from Germany to Geneva. Then we went to the center of Geneva to table and distribute Bibles. We gave out 24 Bibles, received contact information from more than 10 people, had meaningful conversations, and 2 prayed to receive the Lord. In the evening we visited with a brother over dinner who recently got saved.

Tomorrow we will be distributing Bibles again at the city center accompanied by local saints. At night we will have a home meeting with 2 new ones whom we met on the Metro last week!

We distributed Bibles in the city center for the last time. Today was our last day in Geneva. The brothers had two appointments with two different new ones. In the afternoon we had lunch with a local family from Lausanne. In the evening we had two home meetings. In one of them, a new one joined us and was very encouraged as we sang hymns on Christ as our bread and drink.

### **Geneva and Lausanne Prayer Burden**

Lord, gain what You need in the French-speaking cities in Switzerland. Lord, shame the devil and be gloried!

## **Lyon**

We arrived in Lyon and went straight into an afternoon and evening of blending with the saints. We had lunch with some young working saints, and then we met up with some young people and their families to have an activity together. The evening followed with dinner together, singing, and witnessing the young people receive prizes for their 2024 Bible reading challenge. We were very encouraged by a high school sister who read the entire New Testament in the year of 2024.

On Lord's Day, we enjoyed blending with the saints at the Lord's table and a dinner with college students and some new ones from the campus.

We spent the last three days near a campus. We met many students who were interested in receiving a French Bible. Over the last three days, we distributed over 110 Bibles. We spent the evenings blending in the homes of the saints and hearing their testimonies of how the Lord brought them to Lyon.

During the last few days in Lyon, we passed out 40 more Bibles. Two new students whom we met on campus this week came to attend our Bible seminar on Friday night. In addition, we had appointments and meals with four who were met during the summer Bible distribution. This morning we traveled to Saint-Étienne, a city near Lyon, where the saints labored during two past gospel trips. We distributed 80 Bibles at a shopping center, and we had to cut our distribution time short to ensure that we would have enough Bibles for the following few days. Three new ones from the summer Bible distribution also came to join us for this time.

### **Lyon Prayer Burden**

Lord, keep adding to the church in Lyon.