

AN UPDATE CONCERNING THE FRENCH-SPEAKING AREAS

DECEMBER 2019

Twice a year, all of the responsible brothers in France, Belgium, and Switzerland gather together to pray and fellowship for an entire day. During these times, we have three sessions. During the first session, we read some ministry portions together and have an extended time to pray. In the second session the brothers from each place share concerning the situation in their locality, their experience of the Lord's blessing, and any particular requests for prayer. Each church's report is followed by much burdened prayer from all the brothers. These times of prayer have brought us into the feeling of being one church. In the third session we fellowship concerning different matters related to the Lord's advance in the French-speaking world and in all of Europe. Meeting together in this way on a regular basis for the last three years has brought about a change in the situation of the churches in French-speaking Europe. We can testify that, at least to a certain measure, we have been brought into a corporate fellowship and coordination in one accord.

Since two and a half years ago, we started to pray and cooperate with the Lord for His testimony in the southern part of France. The Lord is raising up some dear saints and seekers in Marseilles, Nice, Montpellier, and Toulouse. We have five saints and six contacts in Marseilles, the second largest city in France. Five saints gather together regularly in Nice, a tourist and technology center. There are three Rhema contacts in Montpellier who are shepherded by a couple staying in this city every three out of six months. In Toulouse, the headquarters of Airbus, there are three families and two students gathering. All these cities are very crucial for the Lord's testimony in France even though there are just a small number of saints. We thank the Lord that these saints endeavor to meet every week, and are sometimes shepherded by the churches in Lyon and Bordeaux. They are crying out to the Lord and His Body to have more solid and perfected ones join them so that they can be perfected to be His glorious testimony, city by city.

There is another crucial city in the northeast of France—Lille where there are now 24 saints and 13 children who have regular home meetings. We hope to see another golden lampstand established here soon.

The church in Paris is still moving on in His grace. We have come to the third stage of our regular truth conference—96 Lessons—for the saints to enter into the whole view of the Lord's recovery. Also, a group of brothers began to pursue "The God-ordained Way Training" to learn how to have a vital group church life.

Under the rich blessing of the Lord for His move in the French-speaking world, the work to translate the ministry publications into French has been progressing for the past 25 years. By early 2020, the entire Life-study of the New Testament will be finished. In addition, the Life-study of the Old Testament will be completed by the end of 2022. The Recovery Version of the New Testament in French was published in 2007, and the Old Testament is currently being translated. In addition to these major ministry publications, there are also approximately 50 classic titles by Watchman Nee and Witness Lee available in the French language. The Holy Word for Morning Revival, covering the seven feasts, is also translated every year and made available to the French-speaking churches.

We are extremely grateful to the Lord that He has provided the way to supply the ministry of the age to the French-speaking world. In addition to the many French-speaking people in Europe, North America, and the French-speaking islands, the translated ministry publications are also increasingly spreading among believers in French-speaking Africa. They are being enjoyed by saints in at least six French-speaking countries, including Benin, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, and Togo. Churches are being raised up through the ministry publications and in coordination with

brothers visiting these countries. Please pray that the Lord would continue to bless the French translation work for His move to build up the Body of Christ, perfect His bride, and consummate His economy.

Regarding the upcoming international event—2020 Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG) in Lausanne from January 9-22—the churches in Switzerland have picked up the burden for Bible distribution. The FTTA trainees will arrive before the start of the weekend distribution and will remain throughout the whole YOG event. They will join the saints in contacting the YOG athletes and students, as well as in distributing New Testaments at the EPFL and Uni Lausanne campus areas where the Olympic village is also located. We pray the Lord would gain many young students for His recovery through this golden opportunity.

For more information on the Lord's move in the French-speaking countries, please visit:

L'ÉGLISE À PARIS - <https://sites.google.com/view/legliseaparis/>