

The Flowers

Church Planting in Charleville-Mézières, France

November 15, 2022

Dear Supporting Friends,

As I walked through the door of Intermarché (our local grocery store of choice) the other day, I waved my hands near the sensor, just to make sure it opened on cue. My wife seems to think I don't need to gesture so wildly, but it's a habit now that's tough to break. It got me thinking, though, about open doors and Paul's words in Colossians 4.3, "Withal praying for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance..." This is what we pray here in France! We need God to open doors for us to share the truth with our friends and neighbors. He is doing an amazing work behind the scenes, and we should be ready to go through every open door that He gives us.



Christine

We recently had an open door to talk with Christine, a 70-year-old lady who lives around the corner from the church and has been coming with a friend for several months. Originally from Paris, she drove ambulances for a living but then retired to our area (the Ardennes). For years, she had been bitter at God because she lost two adult children in tragic accidents. Their deaths seemed senseless, and she couldn't understand why a loving God would take all her family from her. Christine had visited several churches in our area before ours but couldn't put her finger on what was missing. After coming to our church though, she realized the problem with the other churches—no one had told her how to go to Heaven. We began meeting regularly with her on Thursday afternoons to answer her questions and take her through the Scriptures. She kept saying over and over during our lessons, "No one told me this before! Why am I just now hearing this after all these years?" We praise God that Christine not only heard the truth—but responded to the truth by placing her faith in Christ.

As you probably know, my family has been involved in basketball for quite a few years now. Getting exercise is vital, but we also look at it as an opportunity to make contact with people in our community, people who would never walk into our church on their own. Remember that most French people think a Baptist church is a cult, so the only way to break through some of that resistance is to get to know them and be ready with an answer when they ask questions. We recently joined the team at Villers Semeuse, a town just outside of Charleville. I am coaching Grant, who is on a boys' team of 11-12 year olds, and Lincoln plays on a young men's team. Not to be left out, I came out of retirement to play on the old men's team. It is amazing how many people we have met in the last few months. Basketball is definitely an open door for us! Please pray that God would use us to make a difference for Christ.

Have a wonderful Christmas season!

Danny Flowers

Danny & Janice Flowers
Lydia, Kara, Lincoln & Grant



Grant's Team



Basketball

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