

The Flowers

Church Planting in Charleville-Mézières, France

January 31, 2023

Dear Supporting Friends,

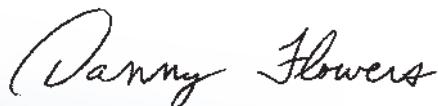
When we first moved to the Ardennes in 2005, we mostly interacted with French people because our area had not yet been opened up to mass immigration. However, over the last five years, the demographics have completely changed, and we now have the privilege of meeting and interacting with people of many different nationalities on a continual basis.

This past week, I went out for coffee with Dimitri, a young man whom I met through basketball. He comes from Guadeloupe, a French province in the hurricane alley of the Caribbean, and is a new student at our local university. I had a great conversation with him and was able to broach the subject of his spiritual need. Please pray that he will be open to meeting with me again soon and that his heart would be receptive to the Gospel.

Being the coach of a boys' basketball team, I am expected to provide transportation to away games if needed. A few weeks back, Rayan needed a ride and his older brother Abdel came along as well. They are from a family of practicing Muslims of Moroccan descent. Abdel recently returned to Morocco to marry a Muslim bride and is now trying to file paperwork to have her join him here in France. Once I was able to steer the conversation toward the topic of eternal life and death, he expressed his doubt as to what would happen to him in the future. He was noticeably concerned about his sin. I talked to him briefly about the Bible and about the assurance of salvation that I have because of Jesus. He said that he might be interested in learning more of what the Bible has to say. Please pray that Abdel would allow me to take him through the Scriptures.

God has also recently put us into contact with Marilyn, a French lady in her early 70s. In the process of moving to Charleville around eight years ago, she did irreparable damage to her back and has been partially handicapped ever since. Through her suffering, she began to seek God. Marilyn trusted Christ in September 2022 as a result of a good Bible correspondence course that she had come across. We met her soon after that and have started discipling her on Monday afternoons in her home. She is so thankful to be saved and lets us know that each time we see her.

God doesn't make any mistakes. He has us here, in this place, to win people of all nationalities to Him.



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