



*Join
the Revival
in France.*

21 DAYS OF PRAYER 2018

APRIL 1 - APRIL 22.



DEAR FRIEND,

Welcome to the 2018 Pray for France campaign!

- We pray because Jesus led by example and told us to pray. (Luke 18).
- We pray because prayer is a keystone throughout the Bible.
www.openbible.info/topics/intercessory_prayer
- But most of all, we pray because it makes a difference.

At Impact France, we believe that the effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous (wo)man avails much. We also believe that God hears us when we stand in the gap and intercede for the nations.

And, most of all, we believe that France has a critical role in God's plan.

That is why we are praying in accordance with the Seven Mountains of Societal Influence.

"In 1975, Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade, and Loren Cunningham, founder of Youth with a Mission (YWAM), developed a God-given, world-changing strategy. Their mandate: Bring Godly change to a nation by reaching its seven spheres, or mountains, of societal influence. They concluded that in order to truly transform any nation with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, these seven facets of society must be reached: Religion, Family, Education, Government, Media, Arts & Entertainment and Business."

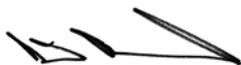
www.generals.org/rpn/the-seven-mountains/

Within these pages, you will find on the ground perspectives from dozens of French ministry leaders working in each of these spheres of influence. We are privileged and excited to hear from them about what they see God doing and where we can pray for them and their work!

Finally, I want to encourage you to find a Pray for France group near you. This year, we have over 50 different groups throughout the United States, the UK, South Africa, Hong Kong, and Mexico! If you haven't already been connected, simply visit www.prayforfrance.org/register to sign up and find out if there are any groups near you.

Thank you for joining us! As you move through each day, seek God for your own life and what He may be calling you to do to move the Kingdom forward in France.

In Christ,



David Broussard, President
Impact France

www.impactfrance.org
www.prayforfrance.org

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WEEK 1

APRIL

1

SUNDAY

Religion:

OVERVIEW OF THE COUNTRY

*Emmanuel Duvieusart***Background for Today**

Many churches in large cities are growing, but little of this growth is due to the conversion of indigenous French people. This is not racism or a protectionist attitude but an obvious problem: "How can we reach French people?! They seem to withdraw and fear joining existing churches." There is thus a spiritual challenge to reach the French with the gospel, in city and countryside alike.

In the last 40 years, evangelism has focused on large cities and their surrounding areas, neglecting small and medium-sized towns and villages. Today, France is a vast mission field, and not only in Paris! For decades whole regions of France have been forgotten by those who bring the gospel.

Challenges

The enemy, knowing his time is limited, is no doubt pulling on every lever to bring corruption and confusion to our country. Every area of life is affected:

1. The economy, run principally by internal and external financial powers which buy and sell our debt to the detriment of the poorest and of a balanced budget.
2. Politics, never so widely castigated, criticised and ignored by the French, due to so much well-known scandal and abuse.
3. Education is used as a tool to re-design and break any kind of Christian morality, leaving in its place so-called new values, new principles meant to ensure that our country endures.
4. Social policy has been transformed into "rights;" if these are not forthcoming in whatever form, national demonstrations and often riots will ensue.
5. Security has never been such a sensitive issue, given the daily risk of terrorist attacks, as well as those which have already taken place and killed or hurt so many.
6. Religion is poorly understood and poorly applied; therefore, it is surrounded by tension and misunderstanding.

Continued next page//////////

APRIL

1

SUNDAY

Religion:



OVERVIEW OF THE COUNTRY (CONT.)

Prayer Points

1. God to act and show His power, as He often does in this type of situation that is so chaotic it seems about to implode.
2. Believers to prepare our hearts and work for the advancement of His kingdom, awaiting the moment when He intervenes and shows His glory.



APRIL

2

MONDAY

Religion:



PRAYER

Benjamin and Mélanie Hervé (Houses of Prayer)

Background for Today

In the past six years, we have gone from 3 Houses of Prayer to 30. Some progress this year includes that the Houses of Prayer network is growing internationally. We had two Houses of Prayer in Switzerland and in Belgium. There have also been Houses of Prayer in Canada, Central Africa, Uganda, and Malta wanting to join our network. In France, there are new Houses of Prayer in Mouchard (Jura), the Basque Country, and Havre.

Challenges

1. That the vision of the Houses of Prayer be increasingly understood at the leadership level & for improved communication.

Prayer Points

1. The prophetic movement to rise in France, for it is the destiny and the identity of our country.
2. For the watchmen to rise over the night to counter nighttime occult practices.

Additional Information

- Ecole Melkisedek : <http://melkisedek.fr>
- France en feu : <http://franceenfeu.com>
- www.anouveauperpétuelle.org
- Maison de prière de Nantes : <https://maisondeprierenantes.com/>
- Maison de prière de Genève : www.maisondepriere-geneve.com
- Maison des parfums de Paris : <http://www.maisonsdepriere-paris.fr>
- Maison des parfums Toulouse : <http://maisondesparfums.fr>

APRIL

3

TUESDAY

Religion:



CHURCH PLANTING 1

Raphael Anzenberger

Background for Today

The French evangelical church is still encountering pre-modern ways of doing missions, with "modern" referring to the Church Growth Movement. The challenge is to move the evangelical church from a pre-modern time to a post-modern time missiological conversation, fostered around "gospel and culture engagement". New field experiences are giving visibility to this conversation, but it still lacks traction from the main body.

When it comes to missional engagement, the Church of Vieux-Lyon (Eglise du Vieux-Lyon: <http://www.evangeliquevieuxlyon.fr/>) is a case study in cultural engagement and creative Business as Mission (BAM) strategy. It is also a CFRi (Regional Training Center for Church Planting).

Challenges

1. In regards to the 7 mountains, there is hardly any evangelism and church planting happening in the media, arts, fashion, and business communities, although much progress has been made with politicians.
2. Regarding outreach to the Muslims, the evangelical church is still in baby step mode. Much growth needs to happen.

Prayer Points

1. Pray that there would be "breakthroughs" in Disciple Making Movements that would lead to Church Planting Movements.
2. Pray that there would be more creative models of church plants like the one in Vieux Lyon, especially in the heart of large cities, using a Business as Mission (BAM) model.

Scripture

Hebrews 5:11-6:3

APRIL

4

WEDNESDAY

Religion:



CHURCH PLANTING 2

Raphael Anzenberger

Background for Today

After the success of Church Planting Learning Communities, the Conseil National des Évangéliques de France (CNEF) started a revitalization. Learning Community in the fall, with 12 denominational teams crossing theological convictions and practices. The issue of church health is linked to the ability of the church to produce 4,000 new churches in order to reach the target of 1 church for every 10,000 inhabitants.

The Assemblies of God M2 multiplication vision <https://vision-m2.fr/> is partly the fruit of the Church Planting Learning Communities. The goal of this remarkable vision is that every Christian would share Jesus with another person, each church would plant a new church, and each leader would form a new leader.

Challenges

1. The vision for disciple making has been clearly communicated in the Church Planting Learning Communities. There is still a lack of concrete applications on the ground, but denominations do want to "crack the code" on this one.
2. Part of the ongoing struggle is to re-imagine cultural engagement with the Gospel from the vantage point of older churches which retracted from society as a default mode of engagement. This makes the question of revitalization very important.

Prayer Points

1. Pray for meaningful conversations in the CNEF Learning Community Revitalization.
2. Pray for the success of the M2 project within the Assemblies of God.

Additional Information

- <http://www.nc2p.org/> - France is playing a key role in the renewal of saturation church planting in Europe! Check especially the France story and the Berlin story at: <http://www.nc2p.org/national-stories>
- <http://www.1pour10000.fr/>
- <https://vision-m2.fr/>

APRIL

5

THURSDAY

Religion:



CHURCH RENEWAL 1

Philip Monnery

Background for Today

The French Evangelical world has experienced significant growth over recent decades with the establishment of 1750 new congregations since 1970. If such growth continues at an average rate of one congregation established every 10 days, certain needs in already established fellowships become apparent. Amongst congregations that have been in existence for 50 years or since the 1970s/80s, many have seen their growth level off, or even begin to shrink. If establishing new congregations is a priority, it is also vital to pay attention to the needs of existing ones, helping to re-invigorate them so that they too can grow and multiply.

Even if there are substantial needs, we see God has been at work during recent years to re-invigorate congregations. The dynamic that arises from the establishment of new fellowships has tended to spill over to established ones. For example, when 9 church partnerships worked together to form learning communities under the auspices of the CNEF to study how to establish new congregations, lessons learnt here stimulated established fellowships. These revisit and adopt the church planting strategies and tools appropriate for their context (especially discipleship training). Fresh impetus in these congregations is also supported by a growth in unity as the CNEF has sought to strengthen collaboration and connection between leaders. Finally, in recent years we have seen the restoration of the ministry of evangelists emerging to work alongside the pastors, bringing a fresh dynamic to congregations.

Challenges

1. The question of encouraging renewal in established fellowships does not have a high enough profile. We need people to become more conscious of this.
2. Because this is a relatively new consideration there are few diagnostic and support tools for established congregations.

Prayer Points

1. Pray for a greater mobilization around the question of developing existing congregations.
2. Pray for the emergence of the tools and the people to help diagnose the needs of these congregations and how to provide ongoing support.

APRIL

6

FRIDAY

Religion:



CHURCH RENEWAL 2

David Brown

Background for Today

Church renewal is a recent idea in France and the need for revitalization is great. The CNEF set up a Church Learning Development Community that meets some of the need to figure out how to bring about revitalization and to draft concrete action plans. In addition, after several years of preparation, a revitalization network for churches across Europe has been developed through the European Leadership Forum. Network members will meet for the first time in May 19-24, 2018 in Poland.

Some tools have been developed to encourage church renewal. We now have a bilingual (French/English) website and are releasing Revitalization News (also bilingual) quarterly. We have produced a two-part documentary film (Envoyé-s) about mission and evangelism to encourage people (especially the younger generation) to follow God's plan, reminding them of the mission's Biblical foundation and exploring the history of missions.

Challenges

1. That revitalization be seen as just as exciting as church planting; that the balance between the two activities be maintained; and that young pastors take an interest in this as well.
2. That the film Envoyé-s, made to be distributed through all CNEF and RES (Réseau évangélique suisse) churches and events may truly encourage people to witness for God at home (and beyond...).

Prayer Points

1. The Réseau européen de revitalisation set up by the European Leadership Forum also to bear fruit in France.
2. The first meeting of the revitalization network for churches coming up May 19-24, 2018 in Poland.

Scripture

The verse that inspired the title of the film: "As the Father has sent Me, I also send you" (John 20:21). For a church to be revitalized, the members must stop being self-absorbed, since Jesus sends us to others to love them, serve them, and share the Gospel with them.

APRIL

7

SATURDAY

Religion:



ISLAM 1

Background for Today (from Impact France)

Islam in France is one of the most misunderstood topics when speaking about France today. Even the French overestimate the number of Muslims living in France by a large margin (French think 30% of the country is Muslim when, in fact, statistical estimates put it at about 7.5-8%) - <http://www.lefigaro.fr/actualite-france/2016/12/14/01016-20161214ART-FIG00214-la-population-musulmane-largement-surestimee-en-france.php>.

In reality, we can say that there are 4 million Muslims in France, 3 million of which are practicing Muslims (~70%). What is interesting, however, is that young people are much more faithful to the tenants of Islam than those who are older. According to one study, 90% of young Muslims adhere to dietary restrictions and observe Ramadan. http://www.lemonde.fr/les-decodeurs/article/2015/01/21/que-pese-l-islam-en-france_4559859_4355770.html

Let's be clear: Islam is a tool in the hands of Satan used to strangle and choke families, women, men, and children, but Christ has come to set them free! There are growing movements such as Agapé Mosaïque, ACNA (Association des Chrétiens Nord Africains), Eclat de Soi, MENA, UNACF, and even individuals who are planting Algerian churches in France. God is moving powerfully within this population!

Challenges

The number one challenge in all of France as it relates to Muslims is welcoming them in love. The Church has had a major problem in trying to navigate the multi-ethnic and, particularly, Muslim cultures when sharing Christ's love. Particularly the refugees have been ostracized. Many of them still sleep on the street, in tents, or in garbage bags. Integrating refugees into French culture and life, and especially helping them navigate the administrative process to get papers, is a great first step – but churches should be leading the charge on this and many are not. Radicalization and de-radicalization are also challenges when it comes to young Muslims on the fringe of society who may find themselves isolated, unhappy, and angry—and who may be drawn to radicals who take them under their wings and show them the love that the Church should be showing them.

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APRIL 7 SATURDAY

ISLAM 1 (CONT.)

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the many conferences and public events that highlight God's work in the lives of Muslim converts. Particularly the UNACF conference this month in Lyon
<https://www.unacf.fr/conference-avril-2017-1/>
2. Pray for the churches of France to welcome Muslims and better integrate refugees.
3. Pray for young people who are being seduced by radical Islam.

Helpful Links

<http://mena-france.org/qui-sommes-nous.html>

<http://www.acna.fr/eng/whoweare.html>



WEEK 2

APRIL

8

SUNDAY

Religion:



ISLAM 2

*Agapé Mosaïque and Eclat de Soi***Background for Today**

Agapé Mosaïque (AM) and Eclat de Soi are two ministries that are the most active in France in reaching the Muslim populations. AM primarily focuses its efforts on awareness and training in the local church. They have presented the vision “convert—train—send” in Evangelical communities in France and the United States, taught in many services, and presented the “why and how” to witness to our Muslim neighbors without fear or prejudice during youth groups, during both Evangelical and Catholic gatherings.

Eclat de Soi provides image and beauty consulting services and workshops for women, primarily to Muslim women, but all who need to hear the message of how Jesus loves them and wants to care for them. Most recently, they have been engaged deeply in the refugee situation in France through their project, “Renaissance.” Since the Renaissance project was launched in spring 2017, they have carried out many evening gatherings and weekly outings. In partnership with the ABF, Alliance Biblique Française, Renaissance has successfully managed a cultural inclusion project with refugees coming primarily from Afghanistan. Through educational workshops, administrative assistance, and cultural outings, they have seen many lives changed, transitions eased, and living conditions improved.

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the salvation of our Muslim neighbors from France and from the Middle East.
2. Pray for divine wisdom and direction in all encounters: refugees, politicians, radicalized, pastors, brothers in faith, from any culture.
3. Pray for the Afghan refugees that we care for: that the young faith of many (who are susceptible to influence) be strengthened, the salvation of others.
4. Pray for faithful, devoted people training others. Impact for the church and the Casbah trainings.
5. For the French Church - that God sends workers to His harvest... and start there where we live and there where He will send us.
6. Pray for new administrative and in-the-field assistants dedicated to Christ and to answering His call.

The Lord is working in France among the Muslims. It is undeniable. He has not changed!

APRIL

9

MONDAY

Family:



THE FRENCH FAMILY 1

Françoise Caron (Associations Familiales Protestantes – AFP)

Background for Today

Over recent years, several surveys have been a reminder that family is the most important thing for French youth. Families are concerned with societal issues and want to be more involved in the decisions that affect them. For example, The General State of Bioethics will take place in 2018.. French Christian families want to speak at this event about the necessity of respecting life in all its forms, whatever health and surrounding difficulties may exist.

There are several encouraging developments when it comes to the family. In reaction to the disintegration of the family in society, there are a growing number of "family-focused" services in French churches and a desire to preserve this God-given gift. The emergence of committed Christian men and women who agree to sit in on ministerial government commissions concerning family and societal questions is encouraging.

Challenges

1. For the Protestant Family Associations (Associations Familiales Protestantes - AFP) not to allow themselves to be influenced by the surrounding ideology and the threats that flow from it, but to embody an alternative source of peace, of restoration, and of growth while being a beacon of light in the dark.
2. For the AFP to occupy strategic places with elected officials, institutions and associations to witness to the love of God, to warn of the dangers and consequences of disregarding Christian values.

Prayer Points

1. Pray for parents to fill their role as the primary shepherd and spiritual heads of their families.
2. Pray that young people resist peer pressure and stand firm in their faith.

Additional Information

1. <http://www.afp-federation.org>

APRIL

10

TUESDAY

Family:



THE FRENCH FAMILY 2

Pierre Ketterer, Famille je t'aime - FJA

Background for Today

The relationships of the couple and the family, their development and maintenance over time, are lifetime challenges. "Famille je t'aime" (Family, I love you) is an Evangelical Protestant mission whose desire is to help the church in caring for families. They do this by offering training courses, seminars, and retreats, including an online relationship training course. Through these avenues, they strive to help families be places where everyone is able to grow and live safely. In addition to serving families and local churches, "Famille je t'aime" (FJA) offers social workers a biblical approach that complements their professional training.

Challenges

FJA needs to build up the ranks of their permanent employees. These permanent employees would be responsible for representing FJA to pastoral teams and churches and teaching during events.

Prayer Points

1. A solution to the problem of needing to build up the ranks of FJA's permanent employees, which is unsolvable without God's intervention.
2. For FJA to grow in the five regions of France, with groups of people who can manage FJA events in the churches.
3. For the financial means to upgrade our IT system.
4. For someone to manage our communications across various platforms.

Additional Information

- <http://famillejetaime.com/>

APRIL 11 WEDNESDAY

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 1 (CONT.)

Prayer Points

1. Pray for all involved in Christian education (in the private sector, in public schools, in the training organizations) that they may receive, live, and embody the wisdom that God gives, in order that they may be a blessing to the world.
2. Pray for many new workers to answer the call of Christian education and to be trained.

Additional Information

1. AESPEF ASSOCIATION DES ETABLISSEMENTS PROTESTANTS EVANGELIQUES FRANCOPHONES
Siège social : 15 avenue Foch 68500 GUEBWILLER
Tél : +33 (0)3.89.74.35.76 Fax : 03.89. 74.91.62
Courriel : luc.bussiere@aespef.org
Site : www.aespef.org
Président : M. Luc BUSSIERE
2. INSTITUT SUPERIEUR PROTESTANT MATHURIN CORDIER.
Courriel : secretariat@isp-mathurincordier.fr
Site Internet : www.isp-mathurincordier.fr
Directeur: Vito PASCAZIO.



APRIL

12

THURSDAY

Education:



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 2

Luc Bussière

Background for Today

What has stood out in the past four or five years is the growing number of schools in France, and the great number of projects. During this time, the number of schools in France has more than doubled, from 18 to 42. Many churches and church groups are reconsidering their role and are contemplating opening schools, a new phenomenon in this country.

We are witnessing the birth of an entire network of new relationships, bringing together all those that have a heart for education in a global sense. There are new connections with the Réseau Evangélique des professionnels de l'Enseignement, the REPE, a branch of the GBU. Recent exchanges with the head of the School Council of the Fédération Protestante de France welcomes a dialogue with the evangelical world.

Challenges

1. One of the challenges is to make parents and churches aware of the stakes of a Christian education, of training structures that align with a biblical vision of the world, and that this be motivated not by a desire to shut oneself off from the world, but by a real vision of training a generation that will be salt and light to the world.
2. Another challenge is that of the laws. There are frequently in Europe, but also in France, efforts to restrict certain freedoms, in particular the ability to found private schools. This is currently a burning issue.

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APRIL 12 THURSDAY

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 2 (CONT.)

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the law to remain favorable so that Christian education can not only continue but also flourish.
2. Pray for donors to invest in Christian education to help relieve the burden that solely rest on parents and educators.

Additional Information

1. ACSI-Francophonie ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE des ECOLES CHRETIENNES
Bureau Francophone 22A rue de la Liberté 68300 SAINT-LOUIS
Tél/Fax +33 (0) 3.89.69.22.67 Courriel : acsifrancophonie@free.fr
Site : www.acsieu.org
Coordinateur : M. Daniel NEUHAUS
2. EDUCAVIE. Directeur de EducaVie :
Mr Denis HAMEAU
9 Impasse des Boutons d'Or 77140 St Pierre les Nemours France
Courriel : contact@educavie.fr
Site internet : <http://educavie.fr>
3. Editions Mathurin Cordier : www.editionsmathurincordier.org



APRIL

13

FRIDAY

Education:



UNIVERSITIES 1

Agapé Campus and Groupes Bibliques Universitaires

Background for Today

In France, where the religious perspective has been steadily receding, the three primary Evangelical Christian student associations (Groupe Biblique Univeristaire, Foyer Évangélique Universitaire, and Agapé Campus) are trying to encourage Christian students (less than 1% of the student population) to share their faith on the campuses of the 67 French universities and in the grandes écoles and other higher education institutions, seeking to reach the 2,600,000 students enrolled in these organizations. The methods used are: questionnaire-led discussions, conferences, evening debates, small-group Bible studies, building friendships, involvement in social and humanitarian activities, distributing flyers, posters, Bible stands, etc.

Agapé Campus has a network of insider French Christian students on campus, and many of them are very motivated to create Christian movements where they are witnessing and encouraging other Christians to join them. In order to spur on and encourage students to take the initiative, Groupe Biblique Univeristaire offers many trainings throughout the year at the local, regional, and national levels. Last May, a new national camp was proclaimed that would allow GBUsers and friends to be trained in apologetics and public debate. The next camp will take place on Pentecost with the theme of human identity. New evangelism e-trainings have been available since January 2018. The idea was to offer GBUsers two-part, on-line trainings in various aspects of evangelism: the first step is an interactive, "authoritative course" with practical, on-campus exercises, the second step, approximately two months later, reviews the practical exercises through sharing, testimony, and advice. Many students have enrolled, which is a good sign, and the initial feedback has been positive.

Challenges

1. Students are very mobile and stay a maximum of three years at the same place of study (due to changes in degree path, internships abroad, etc.). It is not easy to instill in Christians the vision of growing and multiplying as disciples of Christ. When they have finally captured the vision, they leave! And for many non-Christian students, it takes a long time simply to lead them to conversion. We do not see a lot of fruit as a result.

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APRIL 13 FRIDAY

UNIVERSITIES 1 (CONT.)

Prayer Points

1. Pray that the GBUsers will be encouraged and through the evangelism trainings and that they will be able to seize opportunities to share the gospel on campus and among high schoolers.
2. Pray that the Lord places it on the hearts of Christian students to truly be disciples of Jesus and to invest their lives in the lives of other students so that the gospel may transform more and more lives.
3. Pray that Agapé Campus finds student leaders who already have this vision laid on their hearts, and that they help them to start new movements where they are.



APRIL

14

SATURDAY

Education:



UNIVERSITIES 2

Agapé Campus and Groupes Bibliques Universitaires

Background for Today

"The university is a place where knowledge and opinions are exchanged, not only during courses, but also throughout all of student life. Discussions between students, debates, tracts, or association newspapers, association conferences, cultural events, parties and evening get-togethers, websites and social networks... there is no lack of opportunity to shake up preconceived ideas, to communicate concepts, and to move away from re-ceived ideas." (introduction to "Libre de le dire à l'université" BLFéditions)

Even though France is known for being secular and for actively working to restrict religious expression to the private sphere, campus ministry associations have nonetheless been able to organize several public events on different campuses with the goal of spreading the Gospel to students. In 2017, for example, they were able to use the 500-year anniversary of the Protestant Reformation to organize cultural exhibitions in locations offered by different universities (a great opportunity to be officially present on these campuses, even if their associations are not officially affiliated with these universities). Many ministries are mobilizing to work with foreign students who have come to study in France, and the Lord makes possible the conversion of youth who then return to witness in their own countries. As for Catholic churches, many are mobilizing to encourage more youth to read the Bible, to pray, and to witness to their peers (particularly through the Alpha Courses).

Groupe Biblique Univeristaire (GBU) holds on-campus evangelism weeks, and in 2017, the week at Nancy went particularly well. Many contacts came out of it. Today, the town has four GBU, which allows more students to hear the gospel. GBU also has groups called DABC (Discussions Around the Bible and the Koran), which are developing well, especially in the Ile-de France and Alsace regions.

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APRIL 14 SATURDAY

UNIVERSITIES 2 (CONT.)

Challenges

1. One challenge for Evangelical Christian student associations is that access to university campuses has become more difficult. Even if access to the universities remains closely watched (because of the risk of attacks) and our actions are not visible or official, there is still freedom to meet students and share with them, to organize small discussion groups in cafeterias, to post ads for events, etc.
2. Another challenge is that students can find it difficult to maintain their commitments and to get involved in concrete and active ways (it's easier just to be a consumer!).

Prayer Points

1. Pray for Christian movements to spring up and grow on each campus in France.
2. Pray for local churches to continue to support student ministry (with prayer, resources, finances, and partnerships).



WEEK 3

APRIL

15

SUNDAY

Government:



GOVERNMENT

Theirry LeGall

Background for Today

Last year at this time, Emmanuel Macron won the French presidential election. Contrary to his predecessor, Mr. Macron quickly engaged the Protestant and Evangelical groups. In September, he spoke at the invitation of the Fédération Protestante de France to celebrate 500 years since the Reformation (http://www.lemonde.fr/religions/article/2017/09/23/macron-attend-beaucoup-des-protestants_5190108_1653130.html). By all accounts, he is much more open to religion as an important piece of society than Hollande.

In his New Year's address to the religious representatives of France, President Macron presented some new perspectives on the relationship between the French state and believers:

"Religious faith that is personally dear to believers does not disqualify one from being a citizen of France; it would be crazy to think that these two aspects of a person wouldn't be in constant dialogue. The Republic is not asking anyone to leave behind and forget their faith, but to be a nation, we must also know how to overcome differences – putting them to work in service of the community of citizens and working daily to not create irreconcilable differences in society... I want us, together, to build a France where we don't hide our religions and where the pluralism of different religions is widely known and can flourish..."

It's reassuring to feel that the President of France respects our dual identity – citizen and Christian. This new era of cooperative laïcité must be wisely used. It seems as though the ball is in the court of the religious bodies of France to move the debate forward.

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APRIL 15 SUNDAY

GOVERNMENT (CONT.)

Challenges

One of the biggest events happening in France right now is the General State of Bioethics which will change or create laws in fields such as medically assisted reproduction, surrogate pregnancy, organ donation, transhumanism, and assisted suicide. The CNEF and its partners have mobilized to make sure that, during these debates, Evangelical voices are heard by key audiences (members of Parliament, Christians, churches, media)

<https://etatsgenerauxdelabioethique.fr>. The CNEF Pastoral Service to members of Parliament is particularly involved in this work.

Prayer Points

1. Pray for training for pastors and church and evangelical organization leadership to make the teams more professional and to support their growth.
2. Pray that the CNEF grows in more regions thanks to the network of departmental delegates who act as intermediaries with departmental governments.
3. Pray for the financing for the major CNEF projects that guide evangelical growth in France.



APRIL

16

MONDAY

Media:



MEDIA 1

Patrick Vauclair

Background for Today

In the 1980s, Alexandre Lukasik began producing Christian videos (VHS tapes) and made a real breakthrough in this completely new field in France (and the French-speaking world). During the same period, Jean-Pierre Barry also produced some films before stopping to throw himself into secular videos. In 1986, after an internship with Alexandre Lukasik in Switzerland, Patrick felt led to start a TV production company – VX-COM. At the time, there seemed to be no opportunity for TV broadcasting in France, while in Switzerland they were launching their first Christian TV station on regional cable networks.

After slow beginnings, very limited financial means, and rather limited church interest, VX-COM acquired professional equipment and gave the team solid experience with TV production (approx. 500 episodes, broadcast on German cable, then on satellite, then dubbed in Russian, Ukrainian, Uzbek, and more). In 1997, the first weekly French Christian show was launched on satellite (7 à Vivre – 120 episodes). Churches showed growing interest as dozens of pastors appeared on this show. Small production companies started to crop up, and VX-COM established relationships to unite the shows, which were broadcast over satellite, then to Africa, first on one, then on a growing number of TV stations.

Eventually VX-COM launched Ze Mag, which became the major French-language Christian broadcast from 2007 to 2014. 250 shows, more than 500 guests, broadcast on several satellites (Europe, the Middle East, the Maghreb), on cable (the West Indies, Switzerland), and some African regional TV stations. Patrick has also been emphasizing training and trying to push producers to improve quality.

Challenges

1. Access to financing to develop new projects remains a problem, as does the ability to showcase what we are doing for churches and possible donors.
2. Videos aimed at a French-speaking secular audience are rare. This is our challenge today and for years to come.

Prayer Points

1. We need to be able to launch new projects with ambitious production values, aimed at non-believers, children, youth, the elderly, young couples, etc. and thus to provide content for the existing channels.
2. France is a profoundly atheist and secularized country. But "there where sin is abundant, grace is overabundant." We thus rely on the Holy Spirit to shift the balance and open to us new avenues for reaching the people.

APRIL

17

TUESDAY

Media:



MEDIA 2

Patrick Vauclair

Background for Today

YouTube makes it easy to create many short videos, and many people produce them. VX-COM has already launched two series: Bien-être and Santé, with a Christian approach (cmavie.tv) with videos shared on some twenty completely secular sites—more than five million views—and an apologetics site (12 videos and two million views). The team continues to motivate others to develop relationships and to encourage those who truly have a heart for the Kingdom of God. T'as 2 minutes, the Porte Ouverte de Mulhouse also reaches quite a few people.

Additionally, VX-COM has just created, with the major French producers and broadcasters, a French-speaking federation of Christian media (F2MC f2mc.fr). Today we are at a crossroads. The opportunities are immense and very real, but everyone must understand this and be willing to collaborate with others.

Challenges

Many are held back by a lack of financial means, but perhaps even more by a lack of human resources. However, God is doing real work using all these videos and shows that are on the web and those that are broadcast by satellite. The number of online views exceeds anything we could have imagined just five or six years ago. The interest of young Muslims is especially surprising and uplifting.

Prayer Points

1. For real collaborations in the federation of Christian media and for a lack of enthusiasm to be replaced by a missionary spirit.
2. For God to raise up men and women ready to seriously dedicate themselves to sharing the Gospel through media.

Additional Information

- <http://www.cmavie.tv/>
- <https://www.f2mc.fr/>

APRIL 18 WEDNESDAY

*Arts and
Entertainment:*



WORSHIP 1

Eric Pires

Background for Today

The spread of charismatic spirituality over the 20th century led to renewed ways of worship, amongst evangelicals, but also Protestants at large and Catholics. In France, this is noticeable through movements like Taizé, founded by a Protestant pastor, but ecumenical at its core, where worship mixes charismatic praise with traditional liturgy. Contemporary forms of worship and music spread with the influence of massive youth movements, represented by YWAM, Youth for Christ, and Cru. The JEM praise books, first edited 45 years ago, have been best sellers among evangelical churches. The influence of these trends has been spread largely across all denominations. Catholic contemporary praise bands have also followed and become popular, with higher exposure than their evangelical counterparts, thanks to a much larger target audience in France.

French churches are multi-cultural, with many Christians coming from African French-speaking countries and from the Caribbean. This brings in a very different cultural local mix from one church to the other, which has an immediate effect on the way worship is experienced and expressed during gatherings. Negro Spirituals and Gospel music have largely been spread in France after WWII, which echoes the cultures of African and Caribbean people strongly represented in the country. In the church, this adds to the interest for diverse expressions of worship and music. Outside church, it gives a major bridge to share the gospel through "gospel music".

Challenges

1. People not familiar with the mainstream "pop worship" could feel frustrated with a weekly worship centered on performance of praise tunes locally unknown.
2. French people are very sensitive to their cherished language, the "langue de Molière". Bad translations of English-written hymns, use of shallow lyrics, superficial pictures or poetry get harsh criticism, more and more and even among the youngest, despite the mainstream contemporary trend being still present.

Prayer Points

1. For a deeper understanding and practice of worship in the church. The French are critical people, grounded in history, philosophy, rationality. They love dynamic and trendy worship times but not superficiality.
2. For a breakthrough in the use of modern media to better equip the church and to train Christians in the areas of worship ministry, worship theology, and worship creativity. France is one of the leading countries in digital innovation and creation.

APRIL	19	THURSDAY	<i>Arts and Entertainment:</i>	
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WORSHIP 2

Eric Pires

Background for Today

Though religion is back on the scene and seen today as a major challenge to tackle, the influence of secularism is very strong and the market of self-centered spirituality is at its peak. Bookstores are full of personal spiritual development, meditation, and hypnosis content. Despite the country's heavy and sometimes bleak Christian history and the strong influence of secularism in the country of the Enlightenment, God has made a way to impact the lives of people in France who are passionate about Christ and sharing His gospel. They are willing to gather together in worship and go out as a witness to the world. God is building up confidence in the church in a country where laïcité is often discriminating evangelicals. But today's generation seems to have "no fear".

Where in the past French churches used to be strongly influenced by external models, sometimes opposed, we see more and more evangelicals joining together and working together to develop the church locally in France and to better contextualize and share the Gospel. This impacts the way we consider everything including how we consider the Church, Worship, and Mission.

Challenges

1. One challenge is to further develop a deepening vision of worship. Worship centered on God, on Christ, but not on a particular performance, expression or style. This requires standing back from our practice and deepening our theology. There is a need for worship which connects to mission, a place where the church is prepared to live and witness, and where non-believers feel welcome to encounter Christ.
2. While most churches tend to adopt the "modern worship trend", it has brought along the issues raised by the so-called "worship wars", still existing today. In the very last decades, digitalization and the rise of mass media have given an easier and free access to all the "praise hits" of the worship music industry, speeding up the whole process again.

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APRIL 19 THURSDAY

WORSHIP 2 (CONT.)

Prayer Points

1. For a better unity in worship and in local work between Christian leaders and organizations, in order to make an impact in the country.
2. For an investment of resources in worship and creative arts ministries and in the ministers themselves.

Scripture

1 Peter 2:5-12 speaks about the core elements the church needs to renew or build up, and it speaks about worship, church, praise, and mission:

- the Service of God, we are his living Temple - Worship
- the Service of the Church, we build us up, together - Edification
- the Service to others, to proclaim "his praises" and witness through our good works - Mission



APRIL

20

FRIDAY

*Arts and
Entertainment:*

ART

DM2A and La Fonderie

Background for Today

Art has often been used as a tool for teaching the gospel throughout history, whether it be through paintings, stained glass, sculpture or music. Recently there has been more of a focus on artistic training for believers and using art as a tool in ministry. In particular, the use of different art forms in evangelism has been effective in France, where there is a great appreciation for all types of art.

One ministry, La Fonderie, organizes monthly meetings for people to come together for conversation around art themes and faith. The purpose of these conversations is to encourage the community of Parisian artists. They also organize an annual conference in Paris on art themes, faith and the city, which lasts several days. Another ministry, DM2A, works to "stimulate the different artistic expressions in the Christian world to communicate the gospel to our contemporaries and to participate in building the body of Christ." They also strive to connect churches with artists.

Challenges

1. One challenge is finding ways to embrace, supervise, manage and develop creative and artistic talents. Consequently, there is a tangible obstacle to divinely inspired artistic creativity in the heart of the church and daily life because of certain excesses in the past wherein such expression has been poorly viewed and thus rejected.

Prayer Points

1. To discover "true" artists who have strong potential or a real calling to the artistic world and be able to support them along the way (locating finances, finding competent and available individuals to partner with them, etc.).
2. For God to inspire Christian artists in France and use their gifts to build up the church and share the gospel with unbelievers.

Additional Information

- <http://www.dm2a.fr/>
- <http://www.lafonderie.org/>

APRIL

21

SATURDAY

Business:



BUSINESS

Philippe Roser –

National President of Chrétiens Témoins dans le Monde

Background for Today (Impact France)

Just like in the United States, French Christian businessmen and businesswomen struggle to find their place in the church. While newer churches tend to be more accepting and open to understanding and supporting the struggles of business leaders, there still remains a great deal of work to do.

Currently, in France, the majority of French Christian business people are connected through several parachurch groups – the most notable being Chrétiens Témoins dans le Monde and ACTE (the French division of Europartners). The primary activity that all of these groups promote are meetings (dinners, lunches, etc.) where Christian business people are able to share their testimony and invite other non-Christian business leaders to experience Jesus.

Challenges

1. Freemasonry that tries to seduce managers.
2. A growing anti-faith sentiment in the business world.
3. The lack of means in general among small and medium-sized businesses.
4. Difficulties that Christian-led businesses have in supporting efforts for the kingdom (taxes).

Prayer Points

1. That faith no longer be viewed as a crutch for losers.
2. That we once again see the difference between those who fear God and those who do not fear Him; that the Lord open the floodgates of heaven on the businesses of his children.
3. That we be able to speak of our faith in a business setting without risking sanctions for proselytizing.
4. That Christian bosses would no longer hide. For this to happen, how they are viewed must change, for they are too often ridiculed by their peers and at the same time wooed by churches, not for their abilities or skills, but for their means.

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APRIL 21 SATURDAY

BUSINESS (CONT.)

Scripture

- Joshua 1:7-9
- James 4:13-15

Additional Information

- CTM (Chrétiens Témoins dans le Monde) <http://www.ctm-fgbmfi.fr/presentation/>
- ICCF France www.iccc-france.org
- EDC (Entrepreneurs et Dirigeants Chrétiens) www.lesedc.org
- ACTE (Associate des Cadres Témoins de l'Évangile)
<http://acte-gbpe.pagesperso-orange.fr/acteinternational.htm>



APRIL 22 SUNDAY

SEND OFF

I hope that you have enjoyed learning about and praying for each of the areas and ministries in the 2018 Pray for France prayer guide!

We believe that France has a significant and globally influential role to play in reaching all nations for Christ.

And, we are encouraged to see God moving. The fact that from the 70s until 2008, the Evangelical population was stagnant at 0.5% but in the last 10 years has doubled to over 1% is significant.

The fact that young people are more engaged and the church is more unified than ever before is significant.

With a massive international presence and reach, France is poised to, once again, become a bastion of true faith in Christ – a light among the nations – and a living testimony of God's goodness, grace, and salvation.

So, whether you are passionate about France and have a long, God-led history with this nation or it was your first time learning about what God is doing there, we pray that God speaks to you about the next steps He wants you to take in pursuing Him.

Impact France will continue to post and email various prayer topics throughout the year as well as other opportunities to participate in the Kingdom of God in France. My hope is that you will continue to remain connected to Impact France as we offer ways to support French ministries on the ground through prayer and giving. Prayer is the key but prayer with action is multiplied impact.

To learn more about Impact France, please visit our website at www.impactfrance.org.

In Christ,



David Broussard, President
Impact France