

Olympic Games Gospel Trip, OL 3 **for the 10-19 August Bible Distribution Days**

Three years ago, in France, a small group of saints began to come together to pray for the Lord to have a way to gain more people and for more lampstands in this country. These saints were not content to have the situation remain the same. They met to pray a number of times every week. Eventually, this group became the coordinating ones for the distributions during the Torch Relay, Olympic Games, and through the end of the Para-Olympics. Last March the Lord began to move by bringing co-workers from France, UK, Germany, Spain and Poland together for days of prayer and fellowship. The Lord erased all the boundaries on the map. It was a sense of oneness, outside of our "own region's" interest and became a joint participation in the Body. The fellowship and coordination became that of the reality of the Body of Christ! Through this the Lord led us to labor in a very specific way on places where churches could be raised up. The view changed from only distributing Bibles for 50 days to also practicing Acts 2:46-47 for these 50 days: "And day by day, continuing steadfastly with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, they partook of their food with exultation and simplicity of heart" (Acts 2:46) and "Praising God and having grace with all the people. And the Lord added together day by day those who were being saved." (Acts 2:47) The day by day and house to house church life is for the raising up of churches. We recognized that this was the Lord's answer to the three years of prayer. Together we are participating in the Lord's present move. This is already changing the contour of the existing churches in France. The brothers in Europe have invaded France to raise up churches! In the past, in Russia, UK, and Germany, there had been an initial phase and then an establishing phase in what the Lord has done. We are in the initial phase in France, Geneva (Switzerland), and Mertzig (Luxemburg), but we need the establishing phase, which in the past has only come through migrations. Without migrations the Lord's testimony in Russia, UK, and Germany would not have been established. We are now at the same point in the French-speaking European countries. If the Lord could gain France as He did in the UK and Germany, Europe would be entirely different. The Lord wants to gain Europe for the preparation of His Bride. France is still in the initial stage. Migration is the move of the Body on earth. We all have the privilege and blessing to participate in the preparation of the Bride. The Lord must build His church in Western Europe. Today the Lord needs churches! May we all freshly open to the Lord. Lord, we follow You as the Lamb!

Prayer Burden for the Lord's Work in France:

Pray that all those who have applied to serve full-time in France would get their visas approved in a timely manner. By mid-October these ones will join with the Lord for His shepherding care for all the ones saved and baptized since the beginning of the Torch Relay Gospel Trips, beginning in May and continuing with the Olympic gospel trips that are currently going on.

Pray that there would be open hearts to hear and respond to the Lord's call to migrate.

Here are the Highlights from the Gospel Teams:

Highlights from: Paris- Palaiseau-Versailles-Nanterre

A young sister received a Bible this afternoon, and she and her sister came to their first Bible study with us that very same evening! They are originally from Peru, and although there was some language barrier, the Lord broke through. We read John 12:1-11, a depiction of the reality of the church life, and touched on the matter of Mary pouring out her love offering to Jesus. They really enjoyed their time with us and planned to come back again tomorrow. Then, the next night both sisters came to their 2nd Bible study with us! We used the Mystery of Human Life, MHL, to cover the matter of regeneration and baptism. They were baptized when they were 8 and 10, but they understood today that regeneration is not a matter of change of mind but a matter of receiving the life of God. God went through the process to become the life-giving Spirit to cleanse us from our sins and breathe Himself into us as the Spirit. We asked them if they wanted to be baptized, now that they have an understanding of baptism. They had many concepts about how to prepare for their baptism. We told them that they can be baptized anytime they want as long as their heart is open and willing. They decided to be baptized tomorrow. Please pray for this baptism! Then for the third night these two sisters from Peru came to the Bible study! We sang songs about baptism and spoke concerning baptism. We emphasized the fact that God, all of us, and the angels are witnessing their baptism and that their old man is buried and they will be transferred to the kingdom of God. We baptized them at the meeting hall, and it was glorious! There were many prayers and much singing. After their baptism, we spoke concerning their need to go on in the church life. They were filled with joy and peace, and they said they will continue to come to the Bible study after their vacation this weekend.

In the Bible study this evening we had a young mother from a previous gospel trip join us with her son. She saw us on our first day of our Bible distribution at the Antony station. They came to us and told us that she had a Recovery version Bible and will join us in one of the evening meetings. And she came! We enjoyed the matter of the Father's house in John 14 and how the Father's house is the Body of Christ and we are part of it. May she continue to seek fellowship with the saints.

We met a young man who had received a Bible from a previous OL trip. He was very kind and gave us his contact information and even offered to come and help us with translation on another day! We reached out to him later in the day and invited him to meet us on Friday, and he agreed!

We had a new one visit with us, coming for the 3rd time to dinner and the Bible study. The saints met this dear new Christian during the Torch Relay 9 outreach at the train station in Versailles last month. We enjoyed hearing her testimony, and several of the saints shared their sweet testimonies of how they received the Lord. May God gain the glory in the church!

Today we were blessed with a handful of young ones who came to receive a Bible with great enthusiasm. One young man came to the table and couldn't believe they were for free! He asked if it really was free, and when we told him it was, a huge smile spread across his face. He then saw the QR codes for contact information and to follow our WhatsApp channel. He eagerly asked if he could scan the QR codes! He was so full of joy and excited to read the Bible; it refreshed us all!

On our first day of tabling at the La Défense area we met a number of seeking people. We were surprised

by the openness of the French people. One particular young woman came to the table and was so happy to receive a Bible. After some fellowship, she was willing to have an appointment with us the next day! In another instance, three of us on the team approached a man and asked him to read John 3:16 with us. He then opened up his faith and experience. He was so open, willing, and simple. We spoke to him about the MHL, and he prayed with us. We had a few more extremely positive encounters, and we set up appointments with these ones this week. We experienced much joy in blending with the local and visiting saints and being involved in the Lord's move today.

Today many of us on the team had positive and encouraging interactions that led to contact information being exchanged and the scheduling of appointments. One young person was so happy to learn about the footnotes in the recovery version because he had been struggling to understand the Bible. Five new ones were saved today, including a student traveling from Guadeloupe. This student read through the MHL with us and prayed to receive the Lord. We also had positive experiences of praying for fruit and having seeking ones come immediately afterward.

We had a very positive seeking one who had received a Bible and has attended every gathering since Monday night. He prayed during dinner, shared his enjoyment of the hymns, had many questions about our experience of reading the Bible, and told us that he read Matthew on his own for three hours. We are so encouraged by his openness.

We also had one who was contacted during OL1 come to another evening gathering, and he brought dessert. He was very attentive and seeking while we were reading verses in John.

We met a girl from Germany who is traveling in France but was leaving the next day. She was so open to come to a meeting even on her last evening in France. She enjoyed the singing so much and saved the hymns on her phone. She wants to be connected to the saints in Germany.

Four new ones came to the evening meeting tonight. One of the new ones had been coming every night and still plans to come again tomorrow! We are very encouraged by his pursuit and by the Lord's operating in him. He said that he receives life from our sharing.

Another one from OL2 came again last night with her two kids as well. She loves to be with us. We spoke to her about how Nicodemus didn't have God and how God's life is like wine to cheer us. She was very happy and was very at peace even to have her kids be taken care of by other saints so she could be in the meeting. She desires to have an English Bible in addition to the Sri Lankan Bible she has.

We met two very positive brothers, both of whom made appointments with us. One is a young man who recently moved to Paris who is seeking to be connected to other Christian believers. The other is a student who will start at Nanterre University this fall and who recently became a Christian. He had a desire to get baptized as soon as possible and was very open to us.

This evening during our meeting, we had five new ones. We split into smaller groups to go over John 3, speaking about the need for regeneration. A mother and her two daughters who came were very happy to be with us. One of the daughters prayed to receive the Lord that night. One man who came for the first time also received the Lord and was so happy to be with us and he said that he wanted to be with us every day from this day onward. Finally, our new one who had been coming every night since being saved and meeting us on Monday, made the decision to be baptized. We are praying for his baptism to take place tomorrow. May the Lord gain these open and seeking ones as remaining fruit for His church.

We are particularly encouraged by the consistency of 3-4 new ones in every evening gathering and their openness. Not only have we had consistent attendance, but we also had several come every night to be with us. The Lord has been faithful to bless the labor here.

We had a woman from OL1 join us for dinner and our Bible study. She and her adult son were both baptized two weeks ago. After the meeting, through the joyous singing and supply from reading John chapter 2, she felt relieved from her anxieties and said, "I feel good." She also shared with us a dream she had, and then we shared Revelation 19:11 about the white horse and the One sitting on it is the Faithful and True One. She looked at us, eyes wide open and said, "Look at my arms; I have goosebumps from reading this verse!" She was impressed at our knowledge of the Bible and how the Lord has really been speaking to her.

A family with two kids from OL1 joined us for dinner and the Bible study tonight. Ever since the OL1 harvest meeting, they've joined the Lord's table twice and several group meetings. The husband has been searching for a church for 4 years. He appreciates the footnotes and has been impressed with the saints sharing the high peak truths to him. They live near the distribution site. He has even participated in the Bible distribution as a sign holder. May the Lord gain this household for the church!

Two brothers shared at our seminar tonight, and then we broke up into small groups for further fellowship. A new one mentioned that she's heard of the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. But she said she didn't realize that doing good things can be apart from the tree of life. We then fellowshiped about how to practically enjoy Christ as the tree of life—through calling on the Lord, pray-reading, and singing. It was an opportunity to call on the Lord together, which was very sweet. When we first met this new one, she said she had plenty of Bibles and was interested only in the seminar. By the end of the night she took a study Bible home and said she wanted to come to the Lord's table meeting tomorrow!

One woman who came to the seminar brought her husband. When they introduced themselves, the woman shared that she met the saints passing out Bibles today and thought it was such a good Bible that she went home and shared about it with her husband. Her husband said that he had received a Bible a few weeks ago as well and got invited to the same seminar. He was thinking this was the same group and said they must come tonight. Both came and testified that it was the Lord who brought them. Apparently, the husband was an OL1 contact but forgot the information about the seminars. He was taking notes during the entire seminar. They both are interested in attending the Lord's table meeting tomorrow. This older couple enjoyed the Lord's Day meeting in central Paris the next day!

Today, I went with three YP sisters to an appointment with a 19-year-old Christian girl. She first met one of our young sisters during OL1. During the meal this new one shared with us that she had prayed to have companions and wanted to know the Lord more. Then she met the saints at the distribution table! She wants to read the Bible regularly with the sisters. The sisters invited her to a home meeting. It is a real encouragement to see the true Shepherd shepherding us, young and less young, and to shepherd and nourish His seeking ones. We are now having a weekly prayer time with the local sisters for these young ones to be built up together and pursue with those who are pursuing the Lord

At the harvest meeting I met a young woman who had met the saints yesterday at the table. She is a Christian, but she has not been meeting regularly at a church. We had good fellowship together. We told her that she is welcome to join us on Lord's Day as well as joining our Bible studies during the week. She came on Lord's Day and said that she really enjoyed it. Later that day she texted me and said that she would like to meet us again and asked if she can bring another sister with her who is also interest in attending Bible studies. She also came to a home Bible study on Tuesday. Now the young woman is connected with sisters living in Paris, and she asked the sisters about regular meetings.

We have felt that it has been such a privilege to participate in the Lord's special move in Paris. During these ten days our realization of the God-ordained way has been enriched day by day by meeting with the saints house to house. We have been received by blended and coordinated saints and have entered into their burden and care for the Lord's move, their families, the international saints, and the new ones as well as all the practical matters of the Bible distribution.

Through the Paris Area distributions and gatherings:

Palaiseau

We passed out a total of 211 Bibles, 8 prayed to receive the Lord, and we exchanged contact information with 48. We had 8 come to gatherings and 2 were baptized.

Versailles

We passed out a total of 59 Bibles, we exchanged contact information with 9, and 1 came to a gathering.

Nanterre

We passed out a total of 293 Bibles, 25 prayed to receive the Lord, and we exchanged contact information with 99. We had 5 appointments with ones we met during OL3, 1 appointment with one from a previous gospel trip. 25 came to gatherings, and 1 was baptized.

Paris

We passed out a total of 412 Bibles, 25 prayed to receive the Lord, and we exchanged contact information with 150. We had 2 appointments with ones we met during OL3, 7 appointments with ones from a previous gospel trip. 22 came to gatherings, and 1 was baptized.

Dieppe and Rouen

The coordinating ones overseeing the gospel trips are very encouraged by what has happened in Dieppe and Rouen. From the very beginning of our fellowship, the saints in the UK have picked up the burden for both cities. When has this ever happened before? Saints in the UK were praying each week for these two cities in France and giving themselves to come and blend with the small church in Dieppe, which is fully French! Very few of these ones from the UK can manage French! It shows such a heart for what the Lord wants—a blended Body! We are so encouraged that it is already evident that there is new life flowing into the church life in Dieppe. Blending works! There is also a couple in the church life that have shared their burden to migrate to Dieppe. The Lord needs to raise up another such couple to migrate to Dieppe. How the blessing flows when we follow the Lamb to move where He is going!

The saints in the UK have also given themselves to labor to raise the church in Rouen. Again, we must say that only in the Body would saints in another country give their prayers, time, energy and continual travel to France to raise up a church that is not in their own country or in their own language. We must thank our Lord and praise Him for all He is doing! We believe the Lord will abundantly bless this move in His Body!

Rouen and Dieppe Highlights:

Today in Rouen we tabled at a shopping mall for the first time. We noticed that there was a larger number of local people coming to the table and not that many tourists. The Lord answered our prayers regarding having more contact with the residents of Rouen. Many today accepted the invitation to the harvest meeting.

One man stopped at the table and received a Bible. Afterward he asked for the guitar and sang gospel songs in French for approximately 30 minutes, and at the same time he encouraged people to get a Bible. It was very touching.

A young couple was walking by when the young man recognized the table and told us that he received a Bible in Dieppe yesterday, and then the young girl rushed to the table to get her own Bible They were so happy leaving together with a Bible.

One team member in Dieppe talked for a while with a young person who was very interested and open. His dad had taken him to church before, so he had some knowledge of Christianity. Our team member read a verse and footnote with him, and eventually moved on to the MHL tract. They read the prayer at the end and called on the Lord together, and he walked away looking really happy and excited. He also scanned the QR code so he could order a Bible.

A local sister joined us today. She met a young couple who seemed very open. She was sharing with them, and by the end of the conversation the young woman wanted to be baptized. The young man had been baptized before, but after hearing about the significance of baptism, he wanted to be baptized again. The young man wants to come to the church meeting on Wednesday, and although the young woman couldn't join on Wednesday, she and the local sister are working out a time to meet up for further fellowship.

At one point what appeared to be two moms and a lot of kids came by our table and were curious about the Bibles. After hearing that they were free, one of the moms asked for some and started passing them out to the kids as she received them. We gave them maybe 6 or 7 in total. The mom seemed very happy and even danced a little jig as she walked away.

We had a combined Dieppe - Rouen gospel meeting. Two new people came, and it was a good time with them, and they both seemed receptive. Brother Christian gave a message on God's economy and the security of salvation.

Through the Rouen distributions and gatherings:

We passed out a total of 73 Bibles, 1 prayed to receive the Lord, and we exchanged contact information with 67. We had 1 appointment with one that we met during OL3, 2 appointments with ones from a previous gospel trip, and 2 came to gatherings.

Through the Dieppe distributions and gatherings:

We passed out a total of 110 Bibles, 4 prayed to receive the Lord, and we exchanged contact information with 10. We had 1 appointment with one we met during OL3, and 2 came to gatherings.

Lille

Today we saw groups of many types of people willingly receiving Bibles, from desirous young people to older ones wanting Bibles. We saw big smiles from the recipients, and a few were interested in following up with us. The face of one man in particular lit up with joy as we spoke with him as a brother in the Lord. May the Lord gain a base of saints to stand as the church in Lille.

A young woman was very responsive when offered a Bible. I showed her John 3:16, and we read the footnotes. Then I explained the « wire diagram » and she was willing to pray the prayer in the MHL and to call upon the name of the Lord. It turned out that she had recently moved to Lille from one of the French-speaking Pacific Islands and seemed to be interested in finding a church to meet with. May she be drawn to meet with the saints in Lille!

We had dinner with a brother that we met on a previous gospel trip. A couple of us gave our testimonies of receiving the Lord, and we had fellowship about the wonders of receiving the very God Himself with His life and person into us. Then we read the first chapter in the Basic Elements of the Christian Life, BXL-2, "A Time with the Lord", which introduces pray-reading as the way to feed on the Lord and receive Him as our food and enjoyment. Then we sang Hymn 811, "My heart is hungry, my spirit doth thirst; I come to Thee, Lord, to seek Thy supply". It seemed like a cherishing and nourishing time with this new one, and we all seemed to be impressed again with this life practice.

Tonight, we had a dinner appointment with a sister that we met during the Torch Relay 8 distribution. We have been consistently reading through the BXL booklets with her, and each time she has shared her precious experiences of the Lord related to each chapter in the BXL booklet. We read together chapter 1 of BXL-3, "Two Principles of Living—The Principle of Life".

We had time with a young sister whom we met on a previous gospel trip. We read chapter 3 in BXL-1, "The Precious Blood of Christ." Both during and after the reading we shared our experiences and realizations about the problems of separation from God, guilt in our conscience, and accusations from Satan. This sister echoed her experience of feeling "down" especially when she is alone and appreciated the portion that exposed how to discern speaking that was from Satan. We sang "God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all" (1 John 1:7)

Today a sister and I had an appointment with a young woman who had just moved to Lille. Around 8 years ago she started reading Bible on her own. The Lord led her to us to take a further step in her relationship with God. She read the first three chapters of BXL and also read the Bible on her own. She deeply appreciated the high truths. She promised to make her way to the special meeting on Lord's Day as well! May the Lord blend her with the Body and grant her a good foundation of a normal Christian life!

We had a home meeting with a sister who was baptized at a sister's house about a month ago. It was very sweet to hear more of her story of how she met the Lord Jesus. She is so happy to be with all of us. We read together the 2nd chapter in BXL-1, "The Assurance, Security and Joy of Salvation," and we had a wonderful time with much exercise of our spirit and remaining in the joy of our salvation.

A sister and I, together with a previous new one, enjoyed the song "Je suis le pain vivant" (I am the living bread), and read Chapter 5 in BXL-1, "The Key to Experiencing Christ—The Human Spirit". We shared some practical experiences about practicing the dividing of our soul and our spirit (Hebrews 4:12) and praying simple prayers about turning to and exercising our spirit. She was very open and said she will practice what we just read together. She has a good appetite for the pure Word. May she gain much enlightenment from the interpreted word.

There were seven new ones who joined the gathering on Lord's Day afternoon. A brother shared about the church in God's eternal purpose. One of the ones had arrived a little late and missed the first part of the speaking. At the end of the time in the groups, this one asked about what was spoken in the beginning part that she had missed. I was so touched with the hunger in her for the Word and the truth concerning the church in God's purpose. She didn't want to miss any part of what was spoken! May the Lord really reveal the vision of the church to all these ones and gain them to be part of the local expression in Lille of the universal church.

I had never experienced the joy of baptism like today. Today when a young woman whom I met just a few days ago told me with certainty she wanted to get baptized with no delay, I was so touched by her simple love toward the Lord. I had much prayer for her on our way to her baptism, commanding the Lord to keep her willingness for baptism. Praise the Lord for His protection; she was baptized with great delight! She was called by the Lord several months ago, and she had an emerging desire in her to find a church and get baptized. And today she found it! The Lord found her through His Body! May the Lord keep her nourished in the Body, increase Himself in her day by day, and grant her a controlling vision for His eternal purpose!

Lille, continued

Through the Lille distributions and gatherings:

We passed out a total of 686 Bibles, 43 prayed to receive the Lord, and we exchanged contact information with 72. We had 11 appointments with ones we met during OL3, 12 appointments with ones from a previous gospel trip, and 7 came to gatherings and 1 was baptized.

Mertzig (Luxembourg)

We met several Portuguese-speaking people in Luxembourg. One man, from Luxembourg but of Portuguese background, showed much interest in what we were sharing with him, so a brother showed him a video on the MHL, and the man kept nodding as he watched. Afterward, he received the MHL tract, prayed the prayer at the end, and left us calling on the Lord. Another Portuguese man took a Bible and exchanged contact information with us so we could send him the link to our WhatsApp channel. Later, he messaged us to remind us to send him the link. He also mentioned that he will try to come to the seminar and is open to having coffee one afternoon.

A couple who are friends of the local family in Mertzig have attended many events since the OL1 gospel trip. This week we have seen of them a lot. The couple have been to their third Lord's day meeting, and the husband also attended a seminar. Both the husband and the wife are very open to the saints and have developed personal contact with a number of the team members over WhatsApp. We attempted to visit the husband at his work but missed him. Regardless, they appreciate being cared for by the saints in many ways. At a barbecue we met a young man for the first time. Before leaving he shook everyone's hand to say goodbye. A few days later we met him at a café, where he offered to pay for our coffee. Our main burden for this time was to speak about the seminar topic on the church. Afterward, he gave us a tour of the American cemetery, as he said he was very grateful to the American military for having saved Europe in the last world war.

A young person introduced to us by someone who met the saints from OL2 attended our seminar for the second time. She shared that she has been enjoying reading the Bible with the saints and brought her Recovery Version with her. During the seminar she was responsive to the message and actively participated in the fellowship. The next day we met with her again and had the opportunity to hear her testimony and how she turned to the Lord.

A man who was contacted during OL2 came to the seminar on Thursday. The topic was "What is the church?" and we discussed the seven aspects of the church as revealed in Ephesians. During the group time he shared that his favorite aspect of the church was the new man. He also joined us for our gospel trip conclusion BBQ on the Lord's Day, during which we read the three verses that contained the two spirits: John 3:6; 4:24; Rom. 8:16. The French Bible he had did not have God's Spirit capitalized in one of the verses, and a brother pointed it out to him. He said, "Two spirits in the same verse, yes, God's Spirit and our spirit!" When the brother showed him 1 Corinthians 6:17, he was amazed. He highlighted these verses in his French Bible and told the brother that he would read the footnotes.

Through the Mertzig distributions and gatherings:

We passed out a total of 378 Bibles, 10 prayed to receive the Lord, and we exchanged contact information with 24. We had 1 appointment with one we met during OL3, 1 appointment with one from a previous gospel trip, and 8 came to gatherings.

Photos and Team Prayers:

Paris Area: Paris- Palaiseau-Versailles-Nanterre



Paris Area: Paris- Palaiseau-Versailles-Nanterre, continued



Pray for regular appointments to be established with these ones! Pray they would come to our evening dinners and Bible studies. Pray these open ones will continue to come to be remaining fruit and fully enter into the church life!

Rouen and Dieppe



Pray that the Lord would release the proper shepherding for each new one!

Lille



Pray that the Lord would release divine appointments, to bring in these 25-40 for His building and give the wisdom on how to take care of the younger ones!

May the Lord really reveal the vision of the church to all these ones and gain them to be part of the church in Lille.

Mertzig (Luxembourg)



Pray that that the saints would have the wisdom in shepherding the new ones!
Pray also that these new ones would have consistent time with the saints.
May the Lord have His lampstand in Mertzig!