

## **Olympic Games Gospel Trip, OL 5** **for the 31 August - 9 September Bible Distribution Days**

As we finish the last of our gospel trips, which began in May and ended in mid-September, we are full of praise and thanksgiving to our Lord Jesus Christ, who prepared the French-speaking people to receive the seed of the gospel of the kingdom. We believe that in a number of places they will become God's farm, God's building.

The Lord has done more than we could ask or think. How we praise Him! In the places where we have labored continuously for 50 days, the Lord has gathered a small group of new believers who have entered into the church life with us. It is our real hope that these ones will be the increase to existing churches or the nucleus of new churches. We have seen the benefit in these places of practicing the day-by-day and house-to-house church life. The local saints along with the visiting saints rejoiced at being together outside of a formal church life. Everyone participating acquired a taste to have a church life as our living instead of simply having scheduled meetings. The God-ordained way has been practiced not as a work to gain people but as a normal living carried out in the Body of Christ. Now our eyes are turned to the urgent need before us. There must be a way to care for the ones we have contacted during our gospel trips. Of course, the Lord will thrust out workers through migration, and there will be a full-time team based in Paris, but neither of these fill the urgent need we have right now. In fellowshiping with several teams it came up that some really desire to come back quickly and spend one to three months where they had labored during their OL gospel trip so that there would be a continual presence in that place. We felt that this was the Lord's speaking on how the urgent need could be met. Among the co-workers in Europe, we began to fellowship about how retired ones and those serving full-time might be able to quickly return so that the shepherding of the new ones could continue seamlessly. A letter concerning this has been out to those who participated in certain TR and OL gospel trips.

### **Prayer Burdens for the Lord's Work in France:**

Pray that the ones, retired or full-time, who have participated in the Torch Relay or Olympic Gospel Trips would have the echo of the Lord's burden in their heart to come for one to three months to meet the urgent need for the continued shepherding of the dear new ones the Lord has put into our hand.

Pray that the visas of all who have applied to serve full-time in France will be approved in a timely manner, that by mid-October they will join with the Lord for His shepherding care for all those who were saved and baptized from the beginning of the Torch Relay Gospel Trips in May and through the Olympic gospel trips, which have just been completed.

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

## **Here are the Highlights from the Gospel Teams:**

### **\*Highlights for the Paris Region:**

The owner of a restaurant next to our distribution table saw our sign and came to get two Bibles, one for himself and another one for his wife. He was very glad to see people distributing Bibles and offered us some free food from his restaurant. I went to the restaurant to have some further fellowship with him and found out that it was a family business. The owner has a younger brother who worked at the counter. He also received a Bible. I showed him John 10:10-11 and the three types of life in Greek. He is about to start university this month and is interested in knowing more about the Bible.

Today is the first day of our preaching. Although there are language limitations, I experienced the desperateness of the Lord to gain people for Himself. Today A young person came over to us from the crowd of people who just got off the bus; she is an unbeliever. I brought her to a French-speaking sister and we led her to read the MHL. In the end she prayed to receive the Lord. She said she felt free and peaceful after reading and praying. She would also like to join us for a Bible study.

Today we met a 3<sup>rd</sup>-year French student during the Bible distribution at Jussieu. He didn't speak much English, but he was open and happy to receive a Bible. He was on his way to campus, but once we began talking, he wasn't in a hurry to leave us. He spoke with the brother for about 15 minutes. He said his parents were Catholic, and his mom really enjoyed reading the Bible. He was eager to show his mom the Bible. The brother showed him the footnotes and encouraged him to read the Bible. He asked him if he wanted to get together to read the Bible sometime, and he said yes! We received his contact information and invited him to the gathering on Friday night. He was very open to meet again.

Today was the Lord's Day. Two new ones from a previous gospel trip came to the Lord's Day meeting, and we had two appointments with ones from a previous gospel trip in the afternoon.

In OL3 the saints met a young French girl who received the Lord. She came to the meeting that very night and has been coming to be with us every day. During this trip, OL5, she has been helping out in the kitchen, and she came twice with the team this week to hand out Bibles. She is quite shy but enjoys being with the local saints. The saints have been sharing with her about baptism, and she decided to get baptized on Monday. As the team was praying and fellowshiping with her about baptism, we wondered if she could get baptized on Sunday night. Then we said why not tonight? This was Wednesday, 9/4. As we were considering this, she walked into the room where we were meeting, and they asked her if she wanted to get baptized before Sunday. She asked when, and the sister said maybe tonight, or what about right now? It was just before dinner, and she said "okay"! The whole team and the local saints gathered in the bathroom and began singing and praising the Lord. It was so awesome! Two of the brothers from OL5 who had just met her baptized her into the Triune God!

Wednesday night after the baptism and dinner we had a gathering with some new ones we had met. The young sister who was just baptized also was there. We had a wonderful time of singing, and then three new sisters shared their stories of how they came here and how the Lord had been moving in their lives.

**\*Note: Since universities are starting their academic terms, Bible distributions were set up in public areas close to campuses because it is illegal to distribute on campus grounds in France.**

## **Highlights for the Paris Region, continued:**

The lady we had just met told us how the Lord had been moving in her to meet with some Christian believers. The day we met, she was coming up out of the metro at Jussieu, and two sisters on our team offered her a Bible. She couldn't believe it and she said okay! They asked her if she wanted to get together to read the Bible, and she said okay! They met with her that day and had a very good time talking about the Bible. They invited her to dinner that night and she shared her story. She had dinner with us, and we could tell during the singing that she was touched. She shared she had never had such joy and fulfillment. She came again for dinner the next night also!

Our appointment was with one we met from the previous day. She was a first-year student at Sorbonne University and a fellow believer in Christ. We met her at a cafe across the Jussieu university campus. The first thing we were struck by was that she prayed by herself before she took a bite of her meal or a sip of her drink. During our conversation, she mentioned that she had been praying for three years to meet fellow believers, as she felt alone. A day before she met us, she prayed to meet believers who could speak English and were from other countries. As she shared, she cried because she was overwhelmed by her feelings of joy and surprise that her prayers were answered. She said she was flabbergasted, having met us.

A young Jewish student approached us to get a Bible. With his Jewish background, he knows Old Testament very well. He was open and wanted to know more about the New Testament. We shared with him John 10:10 and *The Mystery of Human Life*, MHL. He prayed, sang and called on the name of the Lord with us. He was also willing to meet and bring his friends to meet with us to receive Bibles.

Today we met a young student from a Paris University. He asked where a sister was from and if she knew anyone in Paris. He himself was from Lyon and was happy to talk with her because he felt people were not friendly in Paris, whereas everyone was easy to talk to in Lyon. When she asked if he wanted a Bible, he took it and said, "Why not?"

Later today, we felt it was best to head to a different nearby station, La Croix de Berny, to redeem the last hour of our Bible distribution. We passed out 22 bibles in around 30 minutes, including one Portuguese and one Spanish Bible. When the local saints learned of our location, two came almost immediately to join us and help us with translation. We were very grateful for their service and enjoyed being together with them. One of the Bible recipients enjoyed seeing Christ's genealogy in Matthew. She had never seen anything like that before. Five new ones from previous gospel trips came to join our dinner and Bible study that night. We read through John 4 about the thirsty woman at the well and the Lord coming personally to touch her conscience, lead her to confess, and open herself to take a drink of living water.

A young person came up to the table, and we read the MHL with her. She prayed on the spot to receive the Lord, and said she feels free after she prayed! Hallelujah!

A young man who is a Christian and was with his teenage sister approached us; they both received a Bible. He was very impressed with the footnotes in the Bible. He brought his mother out to meet us. They are open to meet with us.

We as a team were very impressed with the number of teenagers who were interested in receiving the Bible and the Lord. May the Lord gain what He is after in the young people in Paris.

A young Christian student read John 10:10-11 and then read the entire footnote for verse 11. She was grinning from ear to ear.

One student said, "I know you from Massy." He had received a Bible from us at Massy. We got his contact information, and he's going to come to our dinner on Saturday. Students are very precious!

A young person passed by me while he was going to the grocery store. When he passed by me the first time, he didn't get a Bible. But when he came out of the store, he decided to get a Bible. I asked him if I could show him the MHL video. He watched the video, and when it was over, he didn't want to leave. He was very interested in finding the video on the Internet.

My highlight for today is to meet a freshman from the university. When he said that he had never read the Bible and was still lingering to listen, I realized that he needed the gospel. I shared MHL with him. He was very attentive and eventually prayed with me the prayer at the 5th key. And in the end, he told me that he wanted to buy or find a Bible from the library, but never succeeded in finding one. I was very much impressed by his seeking heart.

Today I met a 3rd year college student interested in the Recovery Version study Bible. When I approached him initially, he said he was a Christian and already had a Bible. After I showed him how helpful and enlightening the footnotes can be, he gladly took a French study Bible with him to school.

I met a graduate student who was impressed by the footnote in John 3:16 on the word "believes." She received light from realizing what it meant to believe "into" God. She gladly accepted a Bible. I am in contact with her. May the Lord cause her heart to be soft and open.

I was really touched by the seeking heart of one from a previous OL gospel trip. Even in a difficult situation of having to take care of a whole family by himself, he paused his work to come to the gathering meetings. What an encouragement!

Today I met a freshman law student. She was very open to speak to me about the Bible. We read John 3:16 and footnote 3. She was also open to come to a Bible study, and we exchanged contact information. May the Lord continue to draw this new one to our meeting.

A student who is studying for his Masters came to our home meeting. He enjoyed both the physical and the spiritual food. He said he had not had home-cooked meals for so long. He also said from our reading of the Bible and fellowship that he is much clearer about the rhema word and logos word. He said he will come again tomorrow night. Praise the Lord!

A young man came asking me how to answer some questions for his Muslim friend so that he could preach the gospel to him. We went through verses in both the Old Testament (Gen.1:26, Isa. 9:6, Micah 5:2) and the New Testament (Matt. 28:19, John 1:1, 14) to see the Divine Trinity and the divinity of Christ. He was very satisfied. He took a Bible with him and left his number for further contact.

I was very encouraged by the young man who came to the meeting today. Seeing his expression as he received light from the Word and from the saints' speaking greatly increased my burden to preach the gospel, especially to students.

Today we hosted one young man at our place for dinner, along with several of the local saints. We sang "I am the Living Bread" in both French and English. We later read half of John 6, including verse 48, where Jesus said that He is the bread of life. This young man appreciated the footnotes and said he felt he could better understand the Bible with the help of the study tools in the Recovery Version.

Two out of three whom I contacted today responded to my WhatsApp text. May the Lord continue to soften their hearts and cause them to be willing to come for further times together.

Tonight a student we met earlier came to our Bible study. Before she left, we asked if she wanted to come again, and she nodded an enthusiastic "yes"! Most of the time I had no idea what she was saying (I didn't speak French), but I felt so joyful that we shared a physical and spiritual meal with her.

During the distribution today outside the train station, a young man walked up to me. He had arrived from Congo a week ago to study at the university, and he said to me that he forgot his Bible at home! He received a Bible from us and got some guidance on how to use the study tools, as well as some information on how to contact some saints in Nanterre. Praise God that this man was brought to us, and may he take a step toward the Lord in fellowship.

After we split our group meeting into smaller groups, the attendance became higher (one evening we had 8 new ones!). The fellowship became more mutual, where everyone could ask questions and give answers. We learned from one another, and the atmosphere was in the Lord's presence. I believe that everyone enjoyed the fellowship. All the new ones said they will come again next time. The Lord is spreading in Nanterre!

Three students and two young working ones joined the Bible study this evening, and we read John chapter 7. Those who were from Christian families shared that they experienced vanity and thirst in the past when they were away from the Lord. But now they could say that the Lord had called them back and was giving them the living water.

One of my gospel friends came to the meeting tonight. She grew up Catholic and church hopped after moving to France, but she couldn't find a genuine group of believers. She started to read the Bible recently, and she is thirsty for the truth. I am encouraged by her.

We met a student at the train station, she was very open and later came to our place for dinner and the Bible study. We read the second half of John 6 together, and she liked the truth of Jesus being our real food and drink. She also enjoyed singing hymns. Eventually, she prayed with us and said that she will come again tomorrow.

We read John 7 together tonight. I was thrilled to see every one of us open our mouths to supply each other. Praise the Lord for sending the new ones to fellowship with us tonight! My highlight for today was that a new one continues to come to the meetings and is full of enjoyment. I really enjoyed how we distribute the Bibles during the day to gain new ones and then have the new ones dine with us in the evening.

In the Bible study today, two gospel friends and one new one joined us. We read John chapter 9, which is about the need of the blind in religion. One of them enjoyed John 9:39: "For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind." He shared that because the blind man believed the Lord, he could see eventually, whereas the Jews became spiritually

blind because of their unbelief. He concluded that he also read the Bible before meeting us, but he didn't understand much then. Now he really enjoyed and could apprehend the meaning of the verses.

A university student lingered near where we distributed Bibles as if he was waiting for something. Therefore, I responded by approaching him and chatting with him for a while to break the ice. Then, after informing him that I do not read French, I let him read John 10:10-11 and the footnotes. His eyes opened wide after I showed him the footnotes. This raised his interest in the French Bible, and he happily took a copy home. Praise the Lord!

We had much fellowship with one of the sisters who got baptized in February of this year. She shared all her hardships with us. And after reading John 8, she realized she received the light of life and is not in the darkness anymore.

We had a Bible study in a home with one who had been meeting with us for 2-3 weeks. We were on John chapter 9. He shared that the Pharisees were so stuck to the law and ordinances that they were the ones who were blind, and that the blind man did not sin but obeyed God's word and could eventually see. He also said that before he met us, he couldn't understand the Bible. Now after meeting us, he is starting to understand the Bible.

We tabled at the train station outside of Nanterre University. We are very impressed that there are many students who are wide open. We had some significant conversations with most of them. I really enjoyed the oneness in our coordination. Although I am lacking in the language, the saints who can speak French joined the conversation together whenever someone stopped by, and others prayed for them.

#### **Through the Paris Region distributions and gatherings:**

We passed out a total of 295 Bibles, 27 prayed to receive the Lord, and we exchanged contact information with 179. We had appointments with 8 whom we met during OL 5, 14 appointments with ones from a previous gospel trip, and 60 came to gatherings and 2 were baptized.

#### **Dieppe and Rouen**

A sister and I met a young lady who was open to receive a Bible. She mentioned that she was searching to know about Jesus. She is open for fellowship, and we have an appointment with her tomorrow. A sister and I met a lady with her son. They are genuine believers and were very open. We used Google translate to communicate, and they were happy to receive a Bible and learn that there are study footnotes.

A brother and I had appointments with two young men tonight. Each received a Bible, and they scanned the green QR code and are willing to read the Bible with someone. So I connected them with a French-speaking brother. They exchanged information. Pray that they both will be open for further contact.

A freshman came to ask for a French and an English Bible (her major is English). She said that she was born in a Christian family. However, she does not feel that she knows the Lord. During COVID she picked up the Bible and read it, and she loved it. She has been reading the Bible ever since. I showed her how to use the footnotes from John 10:10 and 11. She sang with us, and we called on the Lord together to enjoy Him as the living bread to us. She went on the same metro as we did. She said that she was very nervous about starting university. I sent her through WhatsApp two verses, Philippians 4:6 and 7. She replied "Amen! Thank you so much! It went well!" Pray that the second appointment with her will be confirmed soon.

Two new ones came and told us that they were refugees from Sri Lanka and were waiting to get visas. They both requested Bibles, and one of them exchanged contact information. One of them told me that they are helpless right now and that the only help they can get now is from God. He replied to me tonight that he is open to having further contact, and we made an appointment to meet tomorrow.

There were multiple times where people walked past us and didn't take a Bible, but after a few seconds they turned around asked for a Bible and were willing to talk with us. Several were excited to see that they could get a free Bible and were very open to try to come to the gathering meeting.

We read John 3:16 and a footnote with two young women. One smiled after reading the footnote and signed up for emails from Bibles for Europe, BFE. She said she will come to our gathering.

A graduate student came to request an English Bible and a French Bible. He read the footnote from John 3:16 and said that this Bible is good. He left his contact info. He said that he would like to come to the harvest meeting.

A young man (who spoke limited French and limited English) was interested in a Bible. He finishes work late on Saturday but will come to the harvest meeting.

A young woman lit up when she saw us and approached the table. She was not a practicing Christian and wanted to receive a Bible. Her friend also received a Bible. They said they would come to our gathering.

One young man who is a cook at a school readily stopped when we asked him if he wanted a free Study Bible. Without reluctance he scanned both QR codes and set up an appointment to meet with us tomorrow. Lord Jesus, bring him for your purpose' sake!

I met a young working man who requested a French Bible. He spoke a little English. Because he was asking for a meeting in Paris, I eventually understood that he said he works in Rouen but lives in Paris. Fortunately, one of the sisters had the Paris meeting information. He took a picture of the meeting place information and left. I pray that our Lord will guide him to the meeting in Paris on the Lord's Day.

A group of three friends came by, and then one of them stopped to receive a Bible. Her phone died when trying to scan the BFE code. So she borrowed her friend's phone to scan the code, and then signed up before they all walked away. Her friend also received a Bible from another saint further down the walkway.

One young woman received a Bible and spent time to let us show her how to use the Bible, and we also shared the MHL with her. She scanned the blue card QR code.

A woman stopped when we mentioned the Bible and came over to the table with us for us to show her the Bible and the footnotes. She exchanged names and phone numbers with us, and we gave her an invitation to the harvest meeting.

We spoke to one young woman from Rouen and her flesh sister who was visiting her. The young woman wanted a Bible and scanned the QR codes for Bibles for Europe, BFE, and for the WhatsApp channel and said she would try to come to the harvest meeting. She also agreed to meet with us tomorrow to read the Bible.

We met a woman who came by herself to the table and asked for all the information she could have and even started helping us to spread the gospel to people. She is willing to come to the dinner in Rouen if she is available. She also gave us her contact information.

We met a woman with a Catholic background who came to the table and was so full of joy to see young people involved in the sharing of the gospel. She gave us her contact information and is willing to come to the dinner if she is available.

We met a young man, originally from the Middle East who is studying IT in the university in Rouen. He started reading the Bible 3 years ago, but not in a consistent way. He wants to know more and gave us his contact information.

A university student came to receive a Bible. She mentioned that earlier this morning she wanted to start reading the Bible again and was very joyful to see us giving out Bibles! She testified that although there were many times she wanted to give up, she always had hope in the Lord. We got her contact information, and she said she wanted to pray together. She also called on the Lord with us.

A college student came with his girlfriend and requested a French Bible. He said that he reads the Bible by himself. He scanned the blue QR code and received the invitation. He said that he will contact a brother to read the Bible after he knows his schedule. It sounds like he is looking for a church. He also called on the name of the Lord with us.

The man who is a cook at a school and whom we met earlier came to our scheduled appointment on Thursday. We went over the MHL with him, and he prayed to receive the Lord, and we called on the Lord with him. He shared his testimony with us. We showed him the other chapters in the BXL We set up an appointment to read with him weekly. We invited him next door to the Anchor house for dinner, and he came with us. Some of us had fellowship with him over dinner and answered the question he had about speaking in tongues. We showed him 1 Corinthians 14:19, and he said that helped him to understand. He thanked us very much for everything, and we all called on the Lord with him before he left. He said he will come to the Harvest dinner tomorrow night.

We had some great conversations today with people at the table. We met two young men; one was a Christian and the other was not. After sharing some verses from the Word with them, the one that was not a Christian prayed and received the Lord!

We met other young people who seemed dissatisfied and empty and ready to hear about the meaning of their human life. They said they will come to the harvest meeting and would like further contact. A couple of the people we met said they're looking for a church, and we let them know about the meetings of the church in Dieppe.

We were very encouraged by the openness of the young people. We met three young people who were very eager to get a free Bible. When we found out they were under 16 years old, we told them that we needed their parents' permission in order to give them the free Bible. Immediately, they called their parents to get permission, and eventually they were very happy to receive their Bibles.

We also met a few new from previous gospel trips who were happy to see us and wanted to meet up soon for coffee and fellowship.



We met a young man and a woman who are in nursing school in Dieppe. They stayed to talk to members of our team for a while. They were very open and wanted to meet with us again.

We shared with several people at the table today and had some good conversations. One of the highlights was a middle-aged lady who prayed to receive the Lord. She had tears in her eyes afterward, and she was really thankful for the Bible. She lives in Dieppe and is open to more contact.

In the afternoon a few of us had an appointment with a couple we met this past week. We felt they were attracted to the truth that we presented and would like to meet again.

Today, our team was invited over for lunch to a couple's home here in Dieppe. We enjoyed being together and blending with them. In the evening we went to the Harvest meeting in Rouen and joined the team there. Seven new ones came to the meeting, and we had an enjoyable time of singing and fellowship.

### **Through the Rouen and Dieppe distributions and gatherings:**

We passed out a total of 205 Bibles, 9 prayed to receive the Lord, and we exchanged contact information with 27. We had appointments with 3 whom we met during OL 5 and had 3 appointments with ones from a previous gospel trip.

### **Lille**

A young brother received a Bible from us. On Tuesday evening he met with some brothers. He opened up something he is struggling desperately with, and the brothers shared with him about eating and digesting Christ through pray-reading. Today he met with the brothers for the second time, and he was shining as he shared about the rhema he got while he was pray-reading!

A couple of weeks ago a university freshman received a Bible. Yesterday he came back to where he knew he could find the saints (there have been saints at this one spot in Lille for a couple of months now; people know where to find them). He brought two friends with him because he wanted to get Bibles for them. He gave the brothers his number and scheduled an appointment to meet with them today. During the appointment today, he shared with the brothers that he has been reading one chapter every day in the Recovery Bible with the footnotes, even taking notes as he read. We were really encouraged by this. He would like to meet with us again on Friday. He says he's planning on bringing his friend as well to the appointment on Friday.

We met with a sister from a previous gospel trip, we read Chapter 2 of BXL-2, "A Simple Way to Touch the Lord." Before we read, there was much singing and calling on the Lord and sharing of testimonies. This is the third time we met with this new sister, and I can see her growth. Not only is she genuinely enjoying the ministry and fellowship, but she is sharing her experiences with her friends and testified that in the 3 years since she left her home country, it is only after she met the saints that she felt comfortable. May the Lord continue to draw her fully into His building.

We met with a new one at a saint's place. We sang and read verses related to eating and drinking. He was very appreciative of being able to enjoy God. He's looking forward to more meetings with saints and mutual enjoyment of the Bible. At the end he prayed in French for Lord to teach him how to enjoy Him, eat Him, and drink Him.

One new one shared with us how the Lord operated in his life this past year. He was raised Catholic but didn't have a relationship with God. His studies and work situation were not good, everything was "hopeless," and he was close to being suicidal. One day in July he was on his way to a university exam, and he was mugged. He then failed his exam, but that night he had a realization that he needed to seek God. A few days later he decided to get a Bible for himself. He went to the bookstore, but it was closed. When he walked out of the store, he ran into a brother and received a free New Testament! He started with BXL-1 and is now in BXL-2 and is having morning revival with a brother a few times a week!

A new brother received a Bible on September 3. We arranged to meet the same evening. He opened up why he wanted to meet. He is a young genuine brother in Christ but is currently struggling with sin. We shared with him that only eating and digesting Christ can save us from sin. We showed him how to read a chapter in the Bible, choose verses to pray over, and read the footnotes. I told him that if he does this for 30 days, he will have genuine growth in life and the ability to overcome sin. The next day during our appointment he shared the rhema he received when pray-reading over verses in Matthew 2 and 3. Then a day later he sent us text messages about his rhema from verses in Matthew 4 and 5. We brothers made a WhatsApp group with him, and we are hoping to meet with him as many times as possible before we leave. We want to stand with him until he is strengthened in spirit by the genuine growth in life.

A bright note was a twenty-year-old person who prayed the prayer in the MHL. Afterward, she shared that she doesn't know why but she has been receiving a lot of Christian postings in her Instagram feed. She said she likes them much more than the ones on Islam because Islam is so demanding, telling you what you can do and what you can't do. She told us she can't take the NT because she has a Quran at home, but asked if she could take the MHL. We gave it to her and also gave her the BX-1. She exchanged numbers with one of the sisters. She was full of joy and love towards us!

### **Through the Lille distributions and gatherings:**

We passed out a total of 662 Bibles, 110 prayed to receive the Lord, and we exchanged contact information with 123. We had appointments with 9 whom we met during OL 5, 21 appointments with ones from a previous gospel trip, 21 came to gatherings, and 1 was baptized.

### **Mertzig (Luxembourg)**

A young man came to the table toward the end of our distribution. Initially, he told the brother that he had many Bibles at home, but he didn't read them. The brother explained to him that the Bible is not about religion but about a living person, the wonderful person of Jesus Christ, and then showed him the footnote in Matthew 1:1. The brother continued to share with him how God created man in His image using the illustration about the hand and the glove. He told the brother he never heard this even though he grew up in a Christian family. The brother then led him to pray in a very exercised way to receive the Lord. After the prayer he told the brother that he felt like bricks came off his shoulders. The brother confirmed his experience by explaining to him that the Lord Jesus had washed away his sins and that's why he felt much lighter. Even though he was not willing to receive the Bible, he gladly received the Basic Elements of Christian Life booklet.

A woman we have been having appointments with invited us to her home for lunch. When we arrived, she had already prepared a nice lunch for us. During the lunch she was very transparent, telling us about her background, her salvation, how she changed different churches, as well as the wounds she received from different Christians. She mentioned that she never speaks to others this much about herself but felt

that meeting us in the Esch City Center was not a coincidence, but rather God's arrangement because she had been praying to the Lord about her next steps. She would like to open her home for home meetings and fellowship.

The minute we set up the distribution table, a woman approached and asked for a Bible. We showed her a verse, and she was amazed by the footnotes and said, "That's a Bible I can understand, this is what I need." She was lingering there so we continued to share about the MHL and the matter of the three parts of man. She had never heard about the spirit being different from the soul. So, we read two other Scriptures that spoke about it, and at the end she had a smile on her face, saying, "I finally got it, it's the organ we use to contact God!" We asked her if she wanted to pray to receive this zoe life. She was shy about calling on the name of the Lord in French, so we asked her how to say it in her language and we called together in her language, and she was so happy! We exchanged numbers and she said that she was interested in the seminar. While we were talking to her, her husband was waiting, so some brothers approached him and started a conversation. He stayed the whole time listening to what they were telling him.

A woman came by and asked what "study Bible" meant. She was suspicious at first but enjoyed the footnotes that I showed her. She told me that her human life was just a life of suffering and trials, there was nothing here, but she believed something good was waiting for her afterward. So, I shared the MHL, saying it's possible to still go through human life but with another life added to us, the zoe life. She considered herself a Christian, but she was not clear that we could receive the eternal and divine life into us. We called together and she prayed to receive this life! She was so happy, she showed me her forearm having goosebumps and was almost jumping, then she shook my hand with a smiling face and left.

A Portuguese couple with their family stopped by the table. Surprisingly, their 12-year-old son was able to translate for the brother who was speaking to them. Even though the speaking was through translation, the couple was very attentive to the speaking, and eventually the mother read the prayer and received a Bible. While the brother was speaking to the couple, another sister on the team was taking care of their baby and grandma on the side, so the conversation was without interruption. It was such a beautiful coordination in the Body.

We had a second appointment with a mother and her two sons in her apartment, which is close to our Bible distribution site. She was very open to sharing with us her experiences before she settled in Luxembourg. She was grateful to the Lord for protecting and guiding her along the way. She believed that her meeting the saints from this gospel trip was a blessing from the Lord. We took her through Matthew chapter 2 and the footnotes. Later, her husband and a brother also joined the Bible reading and fellowship.

While I was standing at the table, a woman approached the banner. She was recording it with her phone and talking in Portuguese, translating the verse that was written on it (1 Tim 2:4). I came closer to her and said hello. Then she turned to me, she switched to French and told me she was actually praying and praising the Lord, and she wanted to send this recording to all of her friends. One of the saints had given her a Bible just before and she was so happy and touched by what we were doing. She glorified God and blessed each one of us. What an encouragement! Thank you, Lord, for those people whom You have chosen before the foundation of the world!

A man who was met in OL2 has been in contact with the local saints and brought two friends to the seminar this week. One of his friends was a seeking Christian, and it was his second seminar. The other

friend was very new, and the first two were burdened for him. This was his first contact with us, and he prayed, calling on the Lord! All three of them enjoyed the seminar and want to stay in touch with the saints. May the Lord fully gain these three as remaining fruit!

During the seminar, I sat at a table where there was a man who had met the saints earlier at the distribution and brought along his high school daughter. She shared with me about her search for God a year ago and had prayed for a Bible she could understand. We gave her a French New Testament and during the sharing of the divine romance and the universal couple, we read John 3:29-30 with the footnotes. She then looked at the verses in Revelation 19:7 and 21:2 with the footnotes. She thanked God that her prayers had been answered and she now had a Bible she could understand. We arranged a weekly time to read a chapter together over the phone. May the Lord continue to grant her a hunger and thirst for His Word!

Two who had been recently baptized were very eager to receive a Bible. They both are college age. We showed them footnotes and the MHL; they seemed very happy. One of them, fluent in 5 languages, said he wanted to serve the Lord and was burdened to evangelize. We had a brief fellowship about this and exchanged numbers. They both showed interest in the seminar on Friday and the BBQ on Saturday. Pray that they will respond to our messages and that we will see them again.

A German-speaking young lady living in Esch came to us and asked for a German Bible for herself and a Portuguese Bible for her mom. She was very open; we exchanged our WhatsApp number, and she said she's open to have coffee together. We need to pray for her and her mom; hopefully they can join our seminar on Friday. May the Lord gain not only her but also her family.

We met a local person who could speak German well. She is a catholic but believes that God's children should not be divided. She is currently under stress and said that she is struggling, and only reading the Bible can set her free. She would like to join the seminar on Friday. Let's keep praying for her.

An English-speaking lady living in Esch-sur-Alzette came to us and asked for an English Bible for herself. She was very open and said she wanted to know more about this mighty God. We exchanged our WhatsApp number, and she said that she would like to attend the seminar this Friday. A local French-speaking woman in Luxembourg got a Bible from other saints and then came to me saying that what the gospel team is doing is noble and great. She wants her child to also have a study Bible. She said she would bring her child to our seminar.

### **Through the Mertzig distributions and gatherings:**

We passed out a total of 359 Bibles, 34 prayed to receive the Lord, and we exchanged contact information with 47. We had appointments with 6 whom we met during OL 5, 6 appointments with ones from a previous gospel trip, and 14 came to gatherings.

### **Toulouse**

In the beginning of our distribution time I saw my team handing out Bibles, and I was still holding onto my first Bible. I was praying! Eventually, I saw a guy with his headset on. I decided to approach him. I stopped him and said, 'Would you like a free Bible?' He stared at me and said 'Free?' I said 'Free!' and he came to the table. In the conversation we found that he is a university student. He speaks English and wants to meet tomorrow. Really soft and eager to have more fellowship.

One of the new ones spent all day with us, helped us to pass out Bibles, attended the dinner, and was baptized!

It's impressive how open young people are! A Christian woman said that knowing that we are distributing free Bibles has been a comfort to her. We read 1 Corinthians 2:9 and footnote 3, which talks about God's need for us to love Him! This footnote explains that God not only wants us to worship Him and do things for Him but to love Him. She provided us with her phone number for further contact. She blessed us and hugged me and left happy with her Bible.

A young man approached us. He said that after he received a French Bible from us, he went away, and a friend of his saw his Bible and wanted one too. Because his friend was working, he came back to get him a Spanish Bible.

We met a woman who, after three years meeting with a group stopped meeting with them because she said they were very focused on rules, and she didn't enjoy the meeting and became very disappointed. She is looking to meet with a group of Christians who worship God in a simple way. She gave us her number to contact her for more fellowship about the Bible, and she said she will attend the welcome dinner with her daughters.

We met a lady who was very happy when we gave her the Bible because she said she was thinking about buying one because she wanted to be closer to God. She is worried about her 9-year-old daughter because since they moved to France 2 years ago, she realized that the atmosphere here is very dark, especially with the young people. She is looking for a group of Christians to meet with in Toulouse.

We met with one from the Torch Relay gospel trip, TR3. She is a first-year student at the Toulouse University. She had joined the harvest meeting during TR3 and is in weekly contact with a sister, pursuing the Lord and reading the Bible. This one is so seeking. She mentioned that she had started reading the Life-study of Mark. We will meet again this week to read The Basic Elements of the Christian Life, BXL. She also shared that in the last two weeks her parents received Christ. We gave her 2 New Testament Bibles for her parents. How wonderful is this! Because of this, her parents were invited by the sisters to the next appointment and to the welcome meeting we are having in a few days, along with her three siblings.

I was saying to pedestrians: 'Bonjour! Want a free study Bible?' Within one hour, six believers stopped and showed interest in receiving a study Bible. After a warm invitation to these believers to have a dinner with us and to get to know this study Bible and us, they all scanned the code and exchanged their contact number with me.

I read John 10:10 and 1 Thessalonians 5:23 to a young unbeliever. He asked questions about God. I told him the whole process that the Lord went through: Starting with God as the Creator, then incarnation, the One who die for our sins, and resurrection, and then I talked about the problem of sins. He picked up a Bible and joined the CdV channel. He is quite open but scared.

There was a young man who could not get close to the table because of the many interested people all around the table, but he kept peeking to see what was on the table. I approached him. He spoke English. He came to France from Brazil a few months ago. I showed him the MHL booklet, and since he told me he is a Christian, I showed him that man has three parts, and when we receive the Lord, God imparts His life into our spirit, and that makes us sons of God. He was quite impressed and was so happy. He said

today was a very good day because of two things: he just got a job, and he met us. He said he recently bought a Koran because he wants to learn about different religions and was very happy to receive the Bible. I said, "in your learning don't forget Christ!" He said, "No, no, my soul was born in Christ and is in Him!" He gave me his contact information and will come to our welcome dinner on the Lord's Day.

A young man was looking at us and I approached him. He was interested in the Bible. I showed him the MHL video. He was in a hurry, but he viewed it entirely all the while nodding his head. I gave him the MHL booklet and asked him to read the prayer, but he had to go. He was smiling the whole time. Tomorrow, he travels to Italy, but he gave me his contact information.

I was encouraged by a young French person. She has started reading the Bible and she enjoyed footnote 1 on Matthew 1:1. Afterward she watched the MHL video in French and prayed to receive the Lord, calling on His name several times. Then she read Romans 10:13 about calling on the Lord and being saved. After hearing the Word and praying, she was joyful and shared her contact number.

A young French woman received the Lord. She shared with us that she wanted to start reading the Bible. The moment I offered her a Bible, she rejected it, but then she turned around with a look of interest. It gave me the opportunity to offer it again, and she accepted it with a twinkle in her eye. She listened to the recording of the MHL and accepted her condition of emptiness and need for God, so we prayed together to receive the Lord. She immediately changed her countenance and provided us with her phone number for further contact.

A man originally from Ukraine approached us. A brother had a long conversation with him. They eventually decided to go to a bench to sit down to continue their very good fellowship. Although he said he was already a Christian, he prayed to receive the Lord. Later, he left and after a while he came back to get two more Bibles, for his sister and another family member. He lives in a city two hours away from Toulouse, but he said that he will come back to Toulouse on Wednesday and would like to meet with us again. He has four children.

One of today's highlight was meeting a brother originally from Guatemala. He mentioned that he hadn't been attending church meetings, but he was seriously considering resuming them. He knew that meeting us today was not by accident. The first appointment the brothers had with him was during the Bible distribution, and then they arranged an appointment for that evening. After he left, he texted the brothers to remind us about our appointment. This shows how much he was yearning for fellowship. During our evening appointment with him, he shared that when he saw us at the table, he felt as though he had found the fountain of life and the light of life. The brothers had a wonderful time with him. They shared verses about Christ, the church, and the Lord's interests. During the appointment he said: "It means a lot to me to see you, and I would love to be part of the church in Toulouse." He was so happy, and the brothers even felt as if the entire trip was just for him. We saw how the Lord sets aside the 99 to search for the one lost sheep. After the appointment this man sent a message to a brother saying: "Right now I feel like the happiest man in the world." We pray that the Lord will gain him and that we will meet him again, probably every day this week, as his flexible work schedule is favorable for the church life.

Another highlight has been with a young working woman from Toulouse who was very open. A sister offered her a Bible, and she was very happy to receive it. But the most wonderful thing is that she said that she would like to believe, but she didn't know how to believe or become a Christian. Two sisters shared the MHL booklet with her. She said the prayer, and after that the sisters helped her to call upon

the name of the Lord in French. She genuinely received the Lord! The sisters could see how her eyes filled with tears.

Today, we had very good appointments with ones who gave very positive responses. Yesterday we met a young student who received a Bible. In the conversation a brother spoke about how much we try to be good and to do good, but in the end we can't do good no matter how much we try. The brother shared with him about our experience as Christians in Romans 7 and 8. The young student was open to have an appointment. Later, the appointment we had with him went very well. The brothers shared about how to contact the Lord, and during the appointment he prayed for his family and friends. He said he will come to the welcome meeting tomorrow.

Three brothers had time with one we met the first day of our distribution. They brought him to the gathering we were having. The meeting turned into a very living meeting. One of them opened up his testimony and said how happy he was that he had found us. We sang Hymn 1333 "What a happy day." He repeated again that he wants to be part of the church in Toulouse, and he is considering to be baptized again. We feel that the Lord is truly blessing us and that He was flowing and operating during these past weeks.

We don't know how many will attend the welcome meeting, but we believe there will be more than we expect, as many may bring family and friends. We are all filled with joy to see such an abundance of fruit. Praise the Lord for His move in Toulouse!

The welcome meeting went very well. 18 new ones attended, most of whom were young ones under 30 years old. We welcomed them with a very good dinner, and then we fellowshiped about the Mystery of Human Life. There was spontaneous singing, and the new ones were super happy. One of them even stayed until the very end helping to clean. We are full of praise to the Lord for what He is doing in His special move in Toulouse.

Yesterday we went to visit a dear sister who is originally from Armenia but lives in Toulouse. We have been communicating by Google translation. It has been a time of mutual supply. She told us that she had been praying for the Lord's move in this gospel time and asked us for the statistics of how many Bibles had been distributed and how many people had received the Lord. She desires to meet the new ones and prays that the Lord will raise up His testimony in Toulouse.

We are experiencing something that many of us have never experienced before. We feel like we truly are in the continuation of the book of Acts. We are learning the model, the prototype of how we should continue the preaching of the gospel here in Europe. People are receiving the Lord, and we are having appointments with them even on the same day that we meet them. The new ones are coming to the meeting, and they are getting baptized. We had 4 baptisms today. Hallelujah!

A brother was at the entrance ushering for the welcome meeting, and a young man was coming into the Ibis Hotel to find a room. At that moment the brother was at the entrance talking with a French lady, and the young man realized that the brother needed help with translation. The brother took the opportunity to invite him to the welcome meeting. After the invitation, the man went to check if the hotel had room for that night; it didn't, so he went to another place to find a room to sleep. After he found a hotel room, he came back to attend the welcome meeting. He lives close to Toulouse, but he came to Toulouse to be away from his busy and stressful environment. He wanted to relax. But "by accident" he found us and came to the best place!

Today we met a young lady. She approached the table, very open to receive a Bible and know more about the Bible. She has a heart for the Lord and loves the Bible. It was through her grandmother that she came to know the Lord. After talking for a while we realized that she didn't want to leave, so the sisters decided to have lunch with her. She was very happy. During the lunch the sisters shared with her testimonies about their baptisms. The young lady was very touched. After that the sisters spent the whole day with her. She came to the welcome meeting, and a brother shared with her more about baptism and she said she wanted to be baptized at that moment. So, she got baptized! Amen!

The brothers were spending time with a young Catholic man. This one met the brothers yesterday during the Bible distribution, and since then they have spent all their time together. He got baptized this evening.

There was one who was originally contacted during the May Torch Relay here in Toulouse, and this one wanted to get baptized, but she was doing a course in her church with lessons she had to take to be able to be baptized. She saw a young sister getting baptized with us without taking the lessons, and she was impressed. She had reached out to a sister expressing a strong desire to get baptized. She decided to come over in the afternoon after doing a course with her group. She had some questions about the baptism, like who would be baptizing her and whether they were genuine believers in the faith. According to a brother, her desire to be baptized was very strong, and she was completely clear about her decision. Her parents were incredibly supportive, encouraging her and saying how amazing it was that she could finally be baptized. She shared a bit of her testimony with us. She explained how she was drawn to the Lord, always having an inward feeling about the Lord. She also said that the Bible is very clear to her. Her prayer before the baptism was a prayer of consecration. This young lady got baptized!

We met a couple who work in a restaurant. He is very open to us. While he was working, we were able to talk with him. When customers came in, we went out, and after the customers went out, we went back in and continued with our conversation. Three times we did this. He watched the video of the MHL. He said if time allows, he will come to Lord's Day welcome dinner. We got his contact information.

I invited a first-year university student for lunch. I learned that he had prayed to receive the Lord. A brother and I started to talk with him about baptism and its meaning, showing him verses. Then we asked him if he wanted to get baptized, and he said yes, so we looked for a time. As he had to travel that night, I suggested why not immediately, and he said Ok! So, we called some brothers and organized to baptize him at our Airbnb. Glorious! He was so happy and agreed to have regular appointments with us. He also had brought an unbelieving friend for lunch, who asked many questions and showed interest in learning more.

We had an appointment with a third-year university student. He said that he didn't believe but wanted to learn. So, we preached the gospel to him and suggested that he try, if he was open. We asked him if he would pray with us, and he did. That day was his physical birthday, so now he has a double birthday, a second birth in his spirit!

Two of us brothers met with a young French seeking Christian who studies in Toulouse. During lunch with him he asked us questions about prayer, and we shared with him about its meaning. After our time of fellowship he told us, "France needs more people like you, to spread the word of Christ everywhere!" He joined both welcome meetings and even shared in the second one. He was very encouraged and even helped us to clean up after the meetings, staying around until the very end.



We had an appointment with two young ones for lunch. One met us on the street and came with his friend. The one we met first was a believer who received the Lord by watching an online video. His friend was interested but said he didn't believe in God. He asked us many questions and was happy to talk to us. Later, we talked with the young brother about baptism and encouraged him to be baptized right away, telling him that there was no need to wait. To our surprise he accepted, and we took him to our Airbnb and baptized him! His friend also joined us and filmed the baptism. After we left them in the afternoon, they wrote us that it was an excellent time together and they are looking forward to the next time. The newly baptized brother wrote later to us that he will never forget that day.

**Through the Toulouse distributions and gatherings:**

We passed out a total of 992 Bibles, 66 prayed to receive the Lord, and we exchanged contact information with 146. We had appointments with 31 whom we met during OL 5, 4 appointments with ones from a previous gospel trip. 28 came to gatherings, and 6 were baptized

## Photos and Team Prayers:

### Paris Region



## Paris Region, continued



Pray for our contact with students from the universities around Paris. Pray that the seed of the gospel will find the good earth in their hearts.

Pray for the shepherding of the new ones and gospel friends.

## Mertzig (Luxembourg)



Lord, raise up the house-to-house church life in Luxembourg!

## Toulouse



Pray that the Lord will release an apartment so that the saints can come for 1-3 months to take care of all the new ones, making it an open home for home meetings for the growth in life of the new ones in Toulouse.  
Lord, raise up such a church life in this city!

## Rouen and Diepp



Pray for the ones who could come and stay in Rouen for 1-3 months for the raising up the church life there.

Pray for those who would migrate to Dieppe for the strengthening of the church life.

## Lille



Lord, send those full-timers or retired ones to come for 1-3 months for the shepherding care of all the ones You are adding!