



# *Strasbourg Work Report*

*(January-March 2024)*

Some great things are happening in this French-speaking corner of God's kingdom! But before I write to you about them, I feel that I need to begin by giving a special shout out to all of those who heard about our need for a heater and responded immediately. Within weeks, several of you contributed and we were able to place an order for a new heating/cooling unit at church. Your love and care for our family and your brothers and sisters in Strasbourg is such a source of encouragement and we cannot thank you enough! And what an example of love you have shown to the babes in Christ that worship here. Many are just learning about the great family that they have chosen to join and your generosity is a strong testimony of the love that binds us.

So back to the great things that are happening that I mentioned... we got some very exciting news recently. I don't know if you remember reading about Princy in my previous newsletter. He was a student in Strasbourg that we studied with and was converted. He then brought us four of his friends for us to study with and who subsequently made the choice to be baptized. Princy moved to Paris and works as an engineer but has recently expressed a desire to be trained to become a leader in the church. His classes are going very well. We just finished studying the life of Christ and are now moving forward to study the Church of Christ. He called us this week to let us know that he was just promoted at work and since he works from home, he was given permission to move to Strasbourg. He, his wife, and their three children hope to join us this Summer where he hopes to continue his training to be a preacher. We are thrilled and thank God for this much needed help!

A few new doors have also opened that enable us to serve the people in our community and reach

**Michel and his sons, to whom I offered bibles (he is a police chief)**



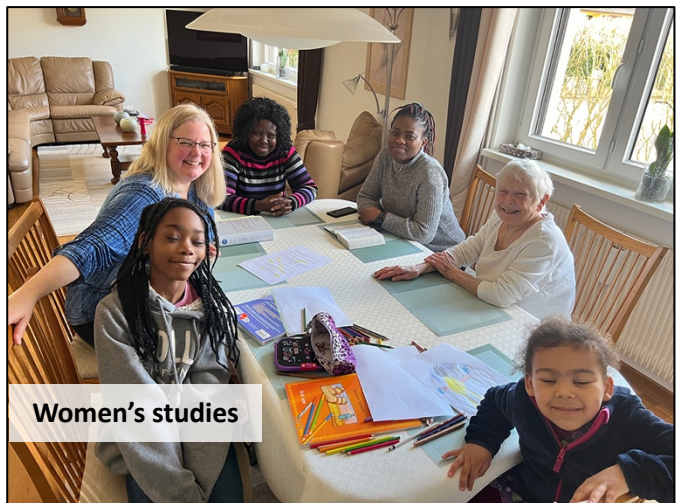
out to them. We looked into the local associations and debated on which one to volunteer for. We felt that there were two in particular that provided the opportunity to reach out and those were either working with refugees or elderly shut ins. We chose to start with the elderly because it meant working with a team and would also allow us to get to know the nursing home staff and families which broadened our potential impact. The association, Little Brothers of the Poor, is organized into teams that are determined by the areas of town that we live in and then, each individual works hand-in-hand with a partner. As it turns out, Tammy's partner is a woman from Algeria seeking asylum in France and living in a shelter with other refugees from various places in the world. And so, God opened that door for us as well! Tammy's partner's name is Halima and after a meeting, she mentioned that she had gone into the Catholic church to light candles and pray. Though she is Muslim, this indicated that she is not only open but in a place of desperation. So, Tammy has taken her out for coffee to talk about matters of

faith and has invited her to the ladies' prayer meeting. The elderly woman that we have "adopted" is 91 years old and as quick as a whip! We love hearing her stories about her life in Strasbourg during World War II under German occupation. As she recounts the stories of nights spent in bomb shelters, of having to crawl down into and out again of craters left by those bombs in order to get to school, standing in long lines for food, being forced to perform for Hitler when he came to visit the University here, the images of the present seem to melt away and we are able to see this world how it must have looked then. It really helps us to understand some of the random things in the Alsatian culture. Each visit allows us to get to know the nursing and housekeeping staff a little better allowing us access to a whole new field to plant in.

Tammy and I have also joined a badminton club in our community in hopes of meeting more people while getting into shape. We were able to reconnect with a family that we had met years ago and lost contact with. We had already had many discussions about God in the past and the wife, Sandrine, expressed a desire to know more about the Bible. I brought her one from home and the next week her 19-year-old son told me that he had tried to read his mother's bible but had a hard time understanding it. This led to a bible discussion and I have since given Bibles to the entire family with promises to follow up on any questions they might have.

One Saturday a month, Tammy holds a ladies' study at our home. This month, Kathy brought her daughter's babysitter named Marie Chantal. Marie Chantal is from Burkina Faso and though she was raised catholic, she has not found a church to worship with in France. We talked about what it means to walk with God and she had many good questions and comments. She has promised to return and we pray that this is the beginning of something wonderful.

Two weeks ago, we received a text message from Fabio. You might remember our mentioning Fabio; he helped us do yard work after my back surgery and we had many conversations about God. He had recently gotten into trouble with the law and found himself flat on his back and looking up to God. He told me that he remembered our talks about the Scriptures and the need for faith. He said that one passage that came to his mind at that time was the







consider herself a member of any religious group. Her father is a Muslim and her mom a Catholic.

Another beautiful encounter we had recently was with a young woman named Sarah. Sarah came to church with her mother about 12 years ago. At the time, Sarah was about 10 years old and she attended the activities that we had each week with the young people. Her mother moved away and left the faith and we lost sight of Sarah. Thanks to God, she recently reached out to us! She has moved to the area again and because of the great memories she has of her time at church, wants to reconnect. She is engaged to a young man from a Muslim background but both are interested in studying the Bible. It is so encouraging to see how we can plant seeds and think that they do not take root but God works the elements in their lives that bring them full circle to Him. Please pray for Sarah and her fiancé, that they will continue to follow through.

We have several pots on the fire, so to speak, in the local work and we ask that you please hold each soul up to God in prayer. We also try to keep the fire burning in other French speaking countries where the need for teachers and preachers is so great. A young man in the congregation in Verviers, Belgium has indicated a desire to study the Bible in depth in order to take on a more active role in leadership in the future. He is studying on a regular basis with my father but also calls me several times a week with questions about how to prepare sermons and about other practical things in the ministry. We speak for hours and I pass along related resources to help him. I am also in contact with several young preachers in Africa and answering their many difficult questions about doctrinal issues. They are even more limited in resources than us and so we are happy to help wherever we can. Our website continues to have a large number of followers throughout the French-speaking world and I often get a great deal of positive feedback on it. An example of some feedback I received this month:

*"I was very happy to hear some of the audio messages on your site that I appreciated very much. I spent several hours on your website and discovered many things that will help me in my spiritual life. I have chosen some of your messages to present to our assembly. I am eternally grateful"*

*"The last three sermons that I listened to were very helpful for me and helped answer many questions I had on these subjects of forgiveness, the meaning of life, the definition of success, the type of ministry that pleases God, and how God's plan for our happiness includes the limits he sets for us."*

I have just created a brochure with a QR code that will make it easier for people to access our website, online courses by correspondence, and sermons which is very exciting. We are so grateful to each of you for the personal sacrifices you are making to partner with us in this very worthy ministry. Your love for the lost and interest in the souls of those that you might never meet on this side of paradise is exemplary and quite literally, life-saving. You will forever be a part of our prayers of thanksgiving.

