

TR4 20–25 May

Bordeaux Torch Relay Team Testimonies

20 May

A team of 31 saints and 4 children arrived safely in Bordeaux today for the Bible distribution. Our team had saints from the UK, US, Australia, Brussels, Taiwan, and other parts of France. We gathered together in the evening with the local saints for prayer, fellowship and singing, followed by dinner in small groups at nearby restaurants.

21 May

The next morning, we gathered for orientation with the team and all the saints who would participate in distributing Bibles. Through fellowship and prayer, there was a two-fold burden - firstly that we would not merely be distributing Bibles, but developing relationships with the local French and secondly, for our opening to the Lord concerning His heart for migration (whether physically or in other ways).

From 21–24 May, the team had 4 distribution times in various locations throughout the city. While the amount of French known among the saints varied from merely “Bonjour! Bible gratuite?” to fluency, there were still many long and meaningful conversations with the local people. We learned that the love of Christ and the one accord flows over any language barrier! We enjoyed and were touched with the coordination among us as we talked to people in French, English, Spanish, and Russian. We truly feel that the foundation of our labor was the prayer of the saints over the last few months.

We were impressed by the openness of the young people. Many in this generation were raised in atheist families and are curious about Christianity and the Bible. Some young ones spoke of dissatisfaction and a longing for meaning in their life. At times, there were groups of young people walking by and some left their friends to talk to us and at other times, they encouraged their friends to also get a Bible. While we couldn't give Bibles to minors directly, we were able to share the truths and feed them. Our corporate sense was that many in this generation have very little knowledge about Christianity and thus, a developing openness and seeking for reality.

There were also many conversations with ones who came from a country that persecutes Christianity and Christians, and they were eager to learn about the Bible and to finally have their own.

During the evenings, the saints graciously opened their homes, hearts, and fridges to us. On the evening of the 21st, a home of brothers invited a number of their personal friends and contacts. 12 of them came and the team and other local saints were able to spend meaningful time with these contacts over a lovefeast. This time was filled with joyous singing and fellowship.

23 May

In the evening of May 23rd, there were 4 new ones who joined us for our first harvest meeting. We ate and sang together and enjoyed fellowship on the Bible being a divine romance. One sister testified that after receiving the Bible from the table, she went home and

compared the New Testament Recovery Version with her Bible. Her sense from what she read and the singing and fellowship she was receiving at the harvest meeting testified that the Spirit and truth was here.

24 May

We had a second harvest meeting on the evening of May 24th where we enjoyed the 6 keys of the mystery of our human life with 10 new ones. This included a family and three believers who had attended the previous night. While setting up for the meeting, a group of young men saw the sign for free Bibles and came in to ask for one. Later, a newlywed couple walking by heard us singing. They joined us for a few minutes and enjoyed singing the hymn, "This Divine Romance" with us. The wife testified that God's love is certainly among us.

Statistics:

424 Bibles were given out

78 people personal contacts and 5 followup appointments

7 people to pray to receive the Lord

First seminar: 4 new ones attended

Second seminar: 10 new ones attended

Prayer burdens:

1. For our continued shepherding and fellowship with our contacts as we return home.
2. For the migration of saints to strengthen the testimony in Bordeaux.



TR3 15–20 May Toulouse Torch Relay Team Testimonies

17 May

Some of us were on a college campus where we met a lot of very open students. The majority spoke English making it much easier for us volunteers to have meaningful conversations.

18 May

Like the first time we tabled, there is an unprecedented openness in Toulouse. Many of the local Toulousians are willing to have long conversations and exchange contact information, especially among the young people. Several university students prayed to receive the Lord today. We also met a number who were newly saved and have a fresh hunger for the Lord and the word. We had several second contacts today with those we had at the table. Finally, we had our first Zoom appointment with a girl we had met in Montpellier, and she is very willing to have a weekly Bible study with the sisters.

19 May

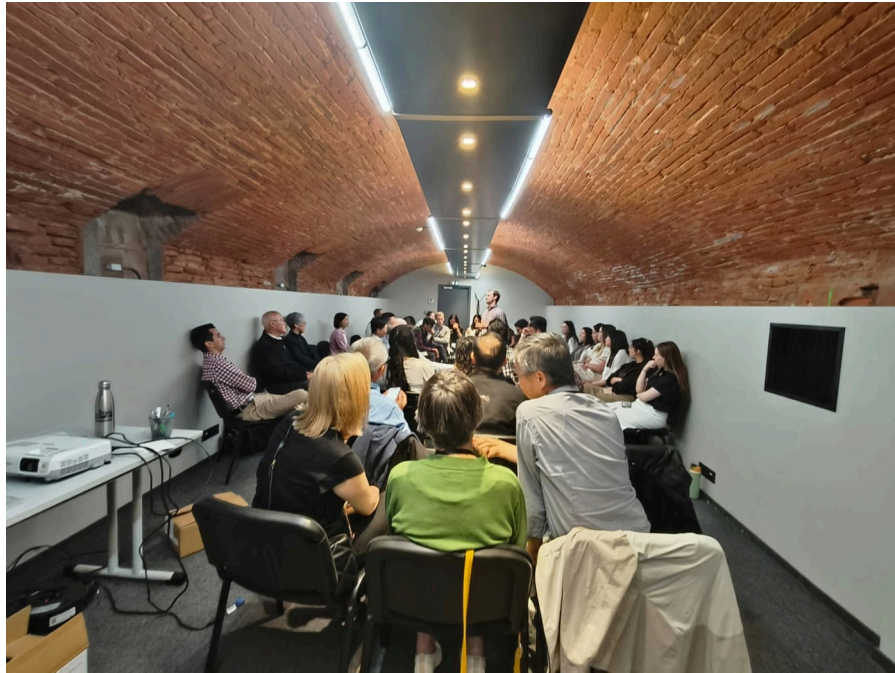
We had dinner with a local family in the recovery and another family they are close to. Altogether, there were three young people and three adults; it was a very sweet time. While the adults were having fellowship regarding the church life and the Christian life, the young people and the trainees were on the couch having a good time getting to know one another. Eventually we all came together and sang songs in English and French to end the night.

Statistics:

880 Bibles were given out
142 personal contacts and 10 follow up appointments
11 prayed with us to receive the Lord
Seminar: 17 new ones attended

Prayer Burdens:

1. Pray that the Lord would release the long-term care of the contacts from these three cities through the coordination of the saints, both local and overseas.
2. Pray for that the Lord would continue to bless the next trip in Bordeaux. Pray for the weather.
3. Pray that the Lord would thrust out the workers to labor with Him in France, not only during these gospel trips, but especially afterwards.
4. Pray for the health of the saints participating in the gospel trips.
it.



TR2 11–15 May

Montpellier Torch Relay Team Testimonies

12 May

We met a student who was a new believer. She was very open and had lunch with the sisters. She also spent time with 13 saints tonight at the saints' Airbnb, where we had dinner, sang, pray-read, and had fellowship. Her takeaway was that we need to eat the Lord--"Just taste and see" ! She will get coffee with the sisters tomorrow.

Two people came to the table today who had just asked the Lord if they can get a free Bible. One of them had even asked the Lord while she was on the tram, and then, she saw our table as soon as she got off! Both were both very touched and are planning to come to our harvest meeting on Tuesday.

We met another student who had lost her Bible and needed to get a new one. Three of the saints got dinner with her tonight and she told us her testimony. She grew up a Christian in her country, but when she came here, she had put God aside and eventually she felt so empty, and she couldn't figure out what it was since her life seemed outwardly to be so good. Eventually the Lord touched her that she had forgotten about Him even though He had not forgotten her. Overall, she is very sweet and very seeking and wants to come on Tuesday.

Overall, we really feel that the Lord has been pouring out His blessing. Though the streets were fairly quiet today, we had many significant conversations with those who came to our table. Generally, we had a younger demographic in Montpellier than in Marseille, encountering many more students. Many of the ones who stopped at our table were very open, and despite not passing out as many Bibles, we still got a significant number of personal contacts, many of whom are happy to have a second contact.

13 May

Many today are extremely open. We have two and even three contacts with several young people in Montpellier, and many of the ones who came to the tables expressed interest in joining our harvest meeting tomorrow night.

We met for coffee with a contact whom we previously had lunch and dinner with. She was extremely open and kept talking about how she enjoyed her time with the saints yesterday. She recounted the different things that the saints shared and loved that there were some she could pursue the Lord with. The sisters are planning to have weekly Zoom calls with her. She will also have an internship in Paris this summer, so we are hoping to connect her quickly with the saints there.

We had dinner with a graduate student whom we had met in Marseille and wanted to see us again in Montpellier. Another young woman also joined us, whom we had dinner with the previous evening. We had a sweet time of fellowship with them at the saints' Airbnb, where we heard of their testimonies, we sang together, and shared from the Word. They thoroughly enjoyed the time, and both are planning to come to our harvest meeting tomorrow night. One even offered to help with bringing drinks.

We spoke to a man, and we told him about the eternity in man's heart and man's spirit, which he received very well. He also asked about why the Jews didn't accept Jesus, and we spoke from John 1 how He came to His own yet they did not receive Him, but to those who did, He gave them authority to be children of God. We said that there are many today who still reject Him, but that he has a choice to receive Him. He was very open, and at the end, he prayed from the Mystery of Human Life.

Statistics:

314 Bibles were given out
61 personal contacts and 9 follow up appointments
2 with us to receive the Lord

Prayer Burdens:

1. That we would find favor in the eyes of the French authorities, and that the enemy would have no way to frustrate these gospel trips.
2. That many of the more than 50 contacts we've reached so far would come to the harvest meeting tomorrow night.
3. That we would have long-term contact with the seeking ones whom we've already seen several times, and that they would become remaining fruit.



TR1 6–11 May

Marseille Torch Relay Team Testimonies

6 May

On the first day that we arrived, a sister visiting from abroad invited us to her relative's home. This sister had brought her sister-in-law and niece to the Paris Conference. Thus, we were able to see the sister's sister-in-law again, as well as meeting her husband and two other daughters. They prepared food for us, and we settled into a pleasant conversation. We sang "I am the living Bread" in French and English. Then a brother shared about the Lord being edible. Another brother then talked about the footnotes in the Recovery Version Bible, and we read together Revelation 2:7, footnote 5, in French. After some sharing, we ended with some prayer for the family, and based on the conversations during our time, we prayed for Marseille. It was a very pleasant time! The sister told us afterwards that her family enjoyed our company and had told her that they felt so comfortable with us all.

7 May

On our first day of Bible distribution:

There were many people who were interested in receiving a Bible at the table near the Vieux Port. We had our hands full, with people waiting in line. Several people that we met at the table came back again to bring their family and friends to receive more Bibles.

We visited a Christian family, and one of the daughters met with the saints again today with two of her friends. After their appointment, they came to the coordination room to see all the saints. This family and the daughter's friends are all interested in having fellowship with us and in reading the ministry.

8 May

On Wednesday, we met a brother who is a librarian in Marseille, specifically in the religion department. He had never heard of the Recovery Version before and was very interested. He had

his own Greek text to compare with our translation, and we got to cover several footnotes with him regarding points of truth that he had never considered before. He was very impressed and wants to come back with his uncle and friends to give them Bibles, as well as meet with us again. Also, a young seeking Marseillaise approached the table and lingered with the team. Seeing as she was so receptive, we went through the Mystery of Human Life with her and led her to pray the prayer at the end. We exchanged phone numbers to read the Bible together and she wants to come to the seminar on Friday evening.

9 May

Several people that we met yesterday came back today to bring their families and friends to receive Bibles

We had contact with a family for at least four occasions this week, including attending our seminar. The father, mother, and three children are all seeking believers, who have been living in Marseille for more than 35 years.

We also met two believers who were quite open, living in Montpellier. We exchanged contact information and they said that they would like to see us when we get there in a few days.

10 May

A Marseillais librarian came back today for our seminar; this was our third time contacting him this week. He enjoyed the time and he exchanged contact information with the saints.

We had sweet fellowship with a sister who used to meet with the saints in London, but now lives in Marseilles.

Statistics:

712 Bibles were given out

78 personal contacts and 4 follow up appointments

5 prayed with us to receive the Lord

First seminar: 7 new ones attended

Second seminar: 10 new ones attended

Prayer Burdens:

1. That the Lord would give us wisdom in following up with all of the contacts we have received.
2. Even more, that the Lord would raise up solid families in Marseille whose homes could contain so many seeking ones. There is a desperation that something stable could be established here.

