

# FRANCE

*"The Kingdom of France is destined by God to defend the church  
of Christ, our Lord"  
(Rémi, 496)*

*"Providence has created her for outstanding successes  
or exemplary misfortunes".  
(Charles de Gaulle, 1958)*

## A PRAYER GUIDE

# INDEX

<b>HOW TO USE THIS BOOK</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>FRANCE AT A GLANCE</b>	
THE PEOPLE	5
THE LAND	7
THE ECONOMY	8
THE RELIGION	11
<b>KEY DATES IN FRANCE'S HISTORY</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>REDEEMING THE DREAMS</b>	
FRANCE AND THE JEWS	21
RELIGIOUS PERSECUTIONS	27
FRANCE AND THE NATIONS	31
AN "ENLIGHTENED" SOCIETY ?	38
FRANCE AND THE WORLD WARS	43
<b>THE CHURCH IN FRANCE TODAY</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>THE DESTINY OF FRANCE</b>	
FRANCE HAS A GREAT DESTINY	50
PRAYING INTO A NATION'S DESTINY	50
1. THE DEFENDER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST	51
2. A LIGHT TO THE NATIONS	51
3. INTELLECTUAL PASSION	52
4. A SENSITIVITY TO SPIRITUAL THINGS	53
5. CULTURE AND THE ARTS	54
6. THE DEFENDER OF HUMAN RIGHTS	54
7. LOVE AND RELATIONSHIPS	55
THE ANNOINTING OF JOHN	55
<b>FORTY DAYS TO CHANGE A NATION</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>SOURCES AND FURTHER READING</b>	<b>60</b>

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

(Please note; the formatting and page numbering may become slightly de-ranged in through the e-mailing process)

# HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

This book is intended to be an aid for prayer. Other books are better for explaining French culture, or teaching the nation's history. Our aim has been to provide the intercessor with keys - information which can be used in nation-changing prayer.

We have selected material which refers to France's past, present and future. Praying for the realities of the present situation is insufficient. Unresolved spiritual issues from the past still shape the nation's character today. They need dealing with in prayer. And we also need to understand something of God's destiny for the nation, and to know what He would like it to become.

We have included in the book several prophetic words, which we submit for you to "weigh" (1 Cor. 14, 29). Whilst recognising that these prophecies are "but in part" (1 Cor. 13, 9), we believe that they can help us see something of God's plan for France. These words should not make us relax, however, passively watching to see how they are fulfilled! They should be fuel for our intercession, inspiring us to pray that God's will, revealed through the prophetic word, would come to pass in this nation. (See 1 Kings 18, 41 - 44).

## **For Individuals**

Read through the whole book first. This will give you a good overall impression of the different needs to cover in prayer.

Take each section separately. Pray in detail through the all points raised and the implications of them.

Listen to the Lord. There may be issues not raised in the booklet that He is wanting you to pray for. During the forty days of prayer in 2001, you may wish to follow the prayer calendar at the back of the book. Also you may wish to set aside more time for concentrated prayer and fasting.

## **For Prayer Groups**

Don't focus on too many different topics at once. This can be confusing. Pray through one or perhaps two sections at each meeting.

Photocopy the Key Facts & Prayer Points onto an acetate or fly-sheet. This helps to remind people of the points they should be praying for.

During the forty days of prayer in 2001, you may be able to meet more often for prayer. Could you organise a rota of prayer and fasting, so that throughout this special time, at least one person from your group was praying and fasting for France ?

## **A PROPHETIC WORD; "BREAK UP YOUR FALLOW GROUND"**

**John Mulinde, Paris 2000**

"The Lord gave me a scripture from Hosea 10; 12 -13 as He was giving me this word.

**"Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord until he comes and showers righteousness on you. But you have planted wickedness, you have reaped evil, you have eaten the fruit of deception. Because you have depended on your own strength and on your many warriors."**

These are the words I had from the Lord.

"Even as I called this land to arise within the space of two years, I was watching as France began to stir herself out of Her deep sleep. Slowly I saw small flames begin to light and come alive. I stretched out

my hand to protect the little flames because the storms were so aggressive. Today I see the flames burning, flames which did not exist a few years ago.

Now I'll tell you what I've done. I've raised priests, watchmen, and warriors, who will contend for this land of France. I will gird their loins with My strength. I will anoint them with my Spirit. I will lead them with My own hand and My presence will be their protection. I will take their hands to war, and break the yokes of darkness in the land of France. But now hear this all you, My priests and watchmen. Come and join Me, for I'm beginning to walk a journey. I'm going to begin to plough the hardened soil of France. I will break the fallow ground until it is tender. Then I will send rain to soften it and to wash it. For My glory will soon descend in France. Yet one more time it will descend in France, and many captives will be set free.

This day, this is what I request of you, Hosea 10; 12 **“Sow yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy. Break up your fallow ground. It is time to seek the Lord until He comes to rain righteousness on you.”**

Consecrate yourselves for my work. The degree that each of you sets themselves apart is the degree of what I will do. Cast off the baggage the world has given you and start to represent My cause in the land. Repent. Repent. Again I say, repent. Repent for your sins and for those of your people. Raise up a new standard in the land.”

I felt I should remind you of Jeremiah 16;16.

**“But now I will send for many fishermen,’ declares the Lord, ‘and they will catch them. After that I will send for many hunters, and they will hunt them down on every mountain and hill and from the crevices of the rocks”**

The Lord said to me; “Yet two more years, even three, I will send fishermen and hunters to draw you out unto me. I will send them from many lands and with many different messages to you. They will bring weapons to you. But you must know that they have only come to strengthen you and to build you up. The real work belongs to you, people of the land (France). I am raising up an army. I started with the leaders, but now I say, bring the people along. You bring the people along with you. Create praying congregations and make praying families. Don't break down the level you have achieved so far. Keep going farther. You still have a long way to go and many, many things to work through. But remember, it has started.

Spread this prayer across the land. Get more leaders involved, more churches, and get more families praying. I'll do what you cannot do for you, even that which you cannot imagine. The nations will hear of it and they will marvel. But this one thing I demand of you. Hosea 10; 12. **“Sow for yourselves righteousness. Break up your fallow ground. For it is time to seek the Lord until He comes and reigns righteousness on you.”**

Don't fear the world, not even your own institutions. I am going to do a new thing. Those who will go with me will shine like stars. They will turn many from evil into eternity. You come, therefore, and set yourselves apart for me. Again I say to you, Hosea 10; 12. **“Sow for yourselves in righteousness. Reap in mercy. Break up your fallow ground. For it is time to seek the Lord until He comes and reigns righteousness on you.”**

# THE PEOPLE

## STATISTICS

**Population:** 58.6 million (1999)  
**Density:** 106 people/sq km  
**Capital:** Paris 10,660,000  
**Major Cities:** Lyon (1,533,000) Marseille (1,227,000)

**Urban-rural** Urban 72.9%; Rural 27.1% (1996)

There are 36,644 Communes, though more than half have less than 400 inhabitants, and 90 % have less than 3,000 inhabitants.

**Workforce:** 26.4 million, 55% male, 45% female  
The working week is now limited to 35 hours.

<b>Age of population</b>	under 15	19.7%	45-59	16.9%
	15-29	21.4%	60-74	13.6%
	30-44	22.2%	75+	6.2%

## ETHNIC COMPOSITION

### 86.3% INDIGENOUS“FRENCH”

9.7% Regional Minorities Breton 1,900,000; Alsatian 1,517,000; Flemish 780,000; Basque 730,000; Corsican 281,000; Catalan 220,000.

1.9% Other National Minorities Jews 700,000; West Indian Antillean 250,000; Gypsy

### 13.7% INTERNATIONAL MINORITIES

7.3% N. African/Middle Eastern North African 3,700,000; Berber 1,200,000; Lebanese/

4.6% Other European

There are also many illegal immigrants.

One of the most sacrosanct principles of France’s Republican Creed is that all citizens are equal and indistinguishable in relation to the state. Whether their origins are from Algeria, Senegal, Corsica, Portugal or Alsace, French citizens are deemed identical in their “Frenchness”. This is different to many other countries where such communities enjoy recognition based on their minority status.

## LOVE AND MARRIAGE

**Marriage:** About 15% of all couples living together are unmarried, compared to 3.6% in 1975.

**Partners:** Men have an average of 11.3 partners during their lifetime, compared to 3.4 for women.

**Divorce:** More than one in three marriages will end in divorce (38.6%). The divorce rate has more than tripled since 1970.

**Birth rate per 1000 population:** 12.6 (1996). World average 25.

**Births:** Within Marriage 63.9%; Outside Marriage 36.1%

**Abortions:** The average number of abortions each year is 243,000.

## EDUCATION

**Literacy:** 93.8%.

Half of the children from working class families earned their baccalaureate (secondary school diploma) in 1996, compared to one in five in 1984. But 6.2% of adults are illiterate.

## HEALTH CARE

Medicine consumption is higher than in other developed countries. The French also consume 3 - 4 times more tranquillizers than other Europeans.

## CRIME

3,567,864 crimes were committed in 1999, up 0.07% compared to 1998. But many estimate that the real figure is five times higher than the official number.

# THE LAND



**Area:** 551,000 sq km. The largest country in Western Europe.

**Coastline:** Over 3200 km of coast line.

**Geographical Features:** The French Alps include the highest mountain in Europe: Mt Blanc 4807m  
The Massif Central range covers 1/6th of the country.

**Rivers:** The Loire River, the longest river, 1020km, runs from Massif Central to Atlantic Ocean. Other important rivers: Seine, Rhone, Garonne, Rhine.

**Land Use:** 57% of France's land is arable or pastoral, with a further 27% covered with forests.

## THE LANGUAGE

French is used as the official language in 22 countries, and as the co-official language in several more (including Belgium, Canada, Haiti, Madagascar, and Switzerland).

112 million people speak French as their first language, and about 60 million as a second language.

# THE ECONOMY

## KEY FACTS

France has the 4th largest economy in the world, with nominal value in millions of US Dollars of \$1,450,000.

Economic growth 2.7% (1999), expected 3.4-3.8% (2000).

Low inflation compared with the rest of Europe. 1.3%.

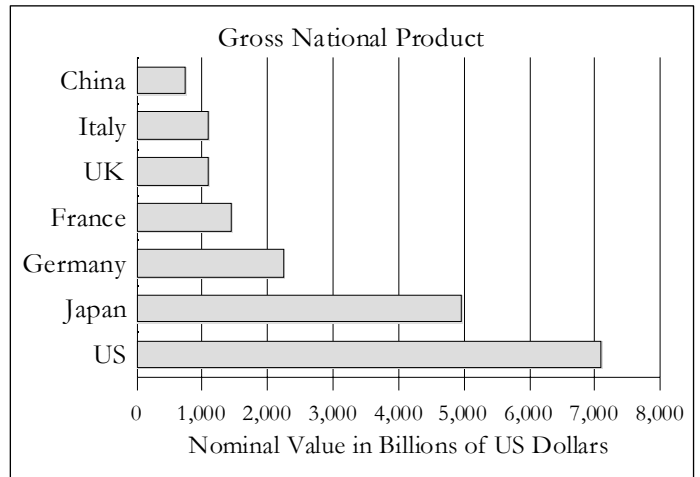
Working week limited to 35 hours.

Currency: French Franc, Euro.

Unemployment has been high over past 6 years, 1997 over 12.5%, currently falling.

4th largest exporting nation in the world, 1st in wine, 4th in cars.

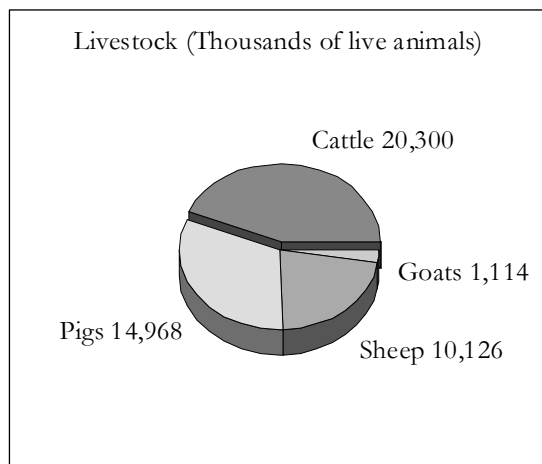
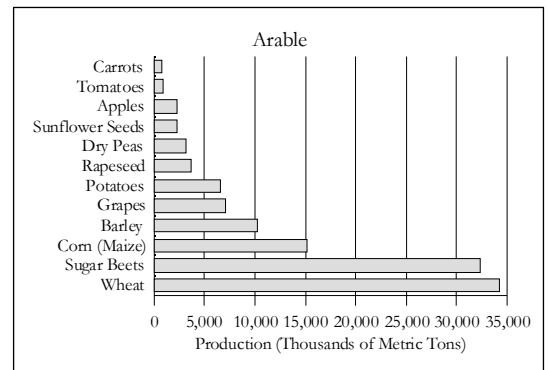
3rd preferred destination for foreign investment in the world.



## ECONOMIC PRODUCTION

### AGRICULTURE

France is a key agricultural country in Western Europe. 20% of European food products come from France.

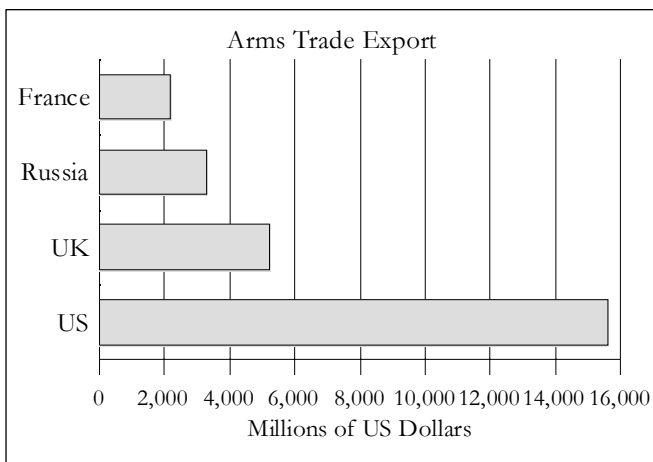
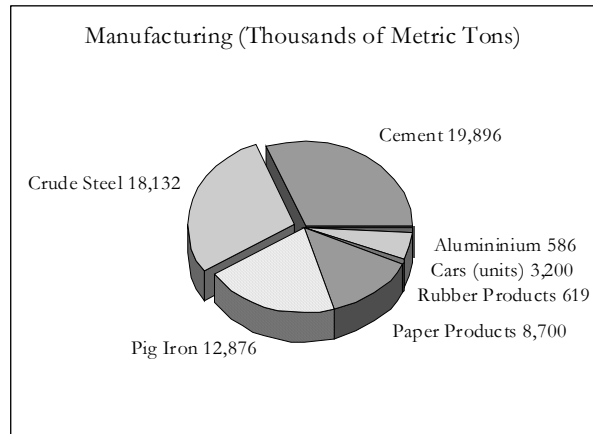


However the agricultural sector accounts for less than one-twentieth of the gross domestic product (GDP) and employs about one-twelfth of the work force.

France is a large exporter of wine, dairy products, wheat, and tinned fruits and vegetables.

## **MANUFACTURING**

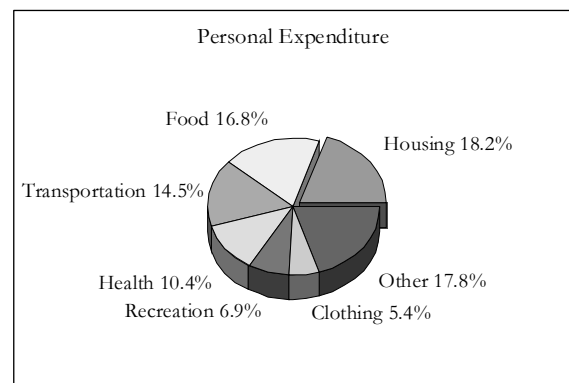
Manufacturing makes up about 25% of the GDP and employs slightly more than that proportion of the work force. The government owns some of the larger industries and has promoted mergers; subsidies have enabled certain French products to compete successfully in world markets. Major manufactures include steel, motor vehicles, aircraft, mechanical and electrical products, textiles, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, and food products.



France is the world's fourth largest exporter of weapons. In 1995 the value of this trade was 2,200 million dollars.

## **PERSONAL EXPENDITURE**

Average household size 2.6; average annual income per household FF 302,560 (\$41,863).



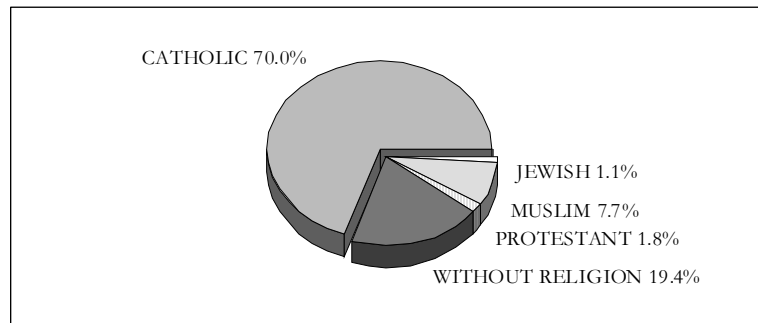
## **NATIONAL FACTORS**

France has one of Europe's highest tax burdens (45.3% of GDP). And one of Europe's most bloated public sectors (accounting for one in four jobs).

# RELIGION

## KEY FACTS

A summary of the religious affiliations of France's population



70% of the population call themselves Catholics - 10% practise regularly. Of these 300,000 are practising charismatics.

Protestants 1.77% of which about one third are Evangelicals (0.65% of population).

2,350 Evangelical churches, representing over 50 denominations.

Of the 36,664 communities in France, approximately 34,500 have no resident evangelical witness.

7.7% of population are Muslim.

1.1% of the population are Jewish. 700,000 people form the 4th largest Jewish community in the world, and the largest in Europe.

25% of the population put their faith in clairvoyants or astrology. An estimated 10 million people pay \$41 billion for occult consultations a year.

## THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Membership** 70% call themselves Catholics, but about 10% practise regularly. Of these an estimated 300,000 are practising charismatics.

**Catholic France Missionaries** There are 22,754 Catholic missionaries sent out from France, making the second largest sending country in the Catholic world.

**Catholic Priests** In 1976 there were 41,000 Roman Catholic priests in France. In 1995 there were only 28,000.

Most priests are elderly, and as there are few young replacements, each priest has to cover an increasing number of communities.

<b>THE PROTESTANT CHURCH</b>
------------------------------

	<b>% of population</b>
<b>Protestants</b>	1.77%
of which	
<b>Evangelicals</b>	0.65%
<b>Pentecostal/ Charismatic</b>	0.38%
<b>Churches</b>	There are 2,350 Evangelical churches, representing over 50 denominations. The largest is the Assemblies of God, with 620 churches.
<b>Membership</b>	Estimated membership 3 - 400,000, of which AOG 100,000. About half of the 170,000 Gypsies in France have become believers in the last 40 years.
<b>New Churches</b>	400 new Evangelical churches have been started in the past 12 years. Over 1,000 new churches have been started since 1970.
<b>Ministers</b>	There are 2,300 full-time pastors, evangelists and missionaries working in France, of which 410 are AOG.
<b>Communes</b>	Of the 36,664 communities in France, approximately 34,500 have no resident evangelical witness.
<b>Cantons</b>	90% of Cantons (an administrative grouping of 30,000 people) don't have a biblical witness. ("Not having a biblical witness" is defined as having less than one biblical meeting per month). This statistic includes Charismatic Catholic groupings.
<b>Towns of 10,000</b>	In 1996 there were 254 towns of over 10,000 people which had no Evangelical church.
<b>Missionaries</b>	There are 1,224 missionaries working in France, and 452 missionaries sent out from France today.

<b>ISLAM</b>
--------------

<b>Membership</b>	7.7% of population. An estimated 4.5 million people, mainly from N. Africa, Mid.East, West Africa and up to 150,000 French.
<b>Mosques</b>	There are 8 "Grand Mosques" in France, 120 mosques accommodating 200-1,000 people each, and more than 1,000 places of worship. The relatively small number of mosques, given such a large Muslim population, is due to the fact that a large percentage of the Muslims are non-practising. Also, those who came as migrant workers in the '60's and 70's didn't expect to stay permanently, giving them no need to build special places for worship.
<b>Ministers</b>	There are about 500 Imams in France, though only 4% are French citizens.

## JEWES

<b>Membership</b>	1.1% of the population are Jewish. 700,000 people form the largest Jewish community in Europe and the 4th largest in the world. 22% practice their faith.
<b>Synagogues</b>	There are 200 Synagogues in France, as well as 60 Jewish schools.
<b>Ministers</b>	There are 100 Rabbis in France.

## CULTS

<b>Membership</b>	<p>There are an estimated 120,000 Jehovah's Witnesses in France. Their membership has been in decline since 1998. There are also a small number of Mormons.</p> <p>Cults have been a particular target of the French government and press in recent years, especially those perceived to engage in mental manipulation. A new law is currently in preparation (September 2000) to limit the activities of cults in France.</p> <p>Evangelical churches and Christian organisations are sometimes classified as cults by the government. Consequently they sometimes find themselves subject to investigations and discriminatory pressures.</p>
-------------------	---

## FREEMASONS

<b>Membership</b>	<p>An estimated 120,000 French are members of the Freemasons. Their numbers have doubled in the last 20 years.</p> <p>This number does not reflect the strength of their influence in business as well as in central and local government. Here Freemasonry often plays a determining role.</p>
-------------------	---

## OCCULT

<b>Interest</b>	<p>About half of the French population believe in faith healing, with one quarter putting their faith in clairvoyants or astrology.</p> <p>An estimated 10 million people pay \$41 billion for occult consultations, three times the amount paid to their family doctors.</p>
<b>Spiritual Healers /Mediums</b>	There are over 30,000 registered Mediums and Spiritual Healers in France.

# KEY DATES IN FRENCH HISTORY

- 900 BC** The **Celts** begin to cross the Rhine into Gaul. The Gauls (Latin for Celts) formed into over 400 tribes, mingling with the native Ligurians of the Alps, Iberians of the Pyrenees, and numerous others, often of Phoenician, Greek, or Roman stock
- 51 BC** **Julius Caesar** completes the Roman conquest of Gaul, at that time home to about 10 million people. The Roman rule unifies the country for the first time, bringing great economic and cultural benefits.
- 117 AD** **Denis the first bishop of Paris** is martyred. He is usually identified with Dionysius the Areopagite mentioned in Acts 17, 34.
- 202** **Irenaeus**, Bishop of Lyon, writer against heresy and well-known Church Father is beheaded.
- 371** **Martin of Tours** founds the monastery of Marmoutiers. This became the training centre for missions to the Celts.
- 400's** “**Barbarian tribes**” start invading the Roman province of Gaul, including the Germanic tribes of the Franks, the Visigoths, the Burgundians, and from further to the East, the Vandals and Teutons
- 486** **Clovis, King of the Franks**, defeats the Roman armies in Gaul, and starts to unite France under his leadership (completed in 507).
- 732** The advance of the **Muslim armies (Moors)** into Western Europe is halted by Frankish ruler Charles Martel, who defeats them near to Tours.
- 756** The Frankish king Pepin the Short gives the area around Rome to the Papacy, thereby **founding the Vatican State**.
- 768** **Charlemagne** becomes King of the Franks from 768, and is crowned **Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire** by the Pope in 800. The conquest and forced “Christianizing” of the Saxon peoples (N.W. Germany) occupies the greater part of Charlemagne's reign, and he succeeds in uniting most of Western Europe by 804. In his capital, Aachen, Charlemagne gathers a kind of academy around him as scholars come together from all over Europe. He also takes a lively interest in theology, organises the church in his dominions, and furthers missionary enterprises and monastic reform.
- 911** The **Vikings** seize control of northern France. The Normans (“North -Men”) settle the Normandy region.
- 1066** **William the Conqueror** (Ruler of Normandy) defeats the English at Hastings, and becomes King of England. He replaces the English nobility with French nobles, and also replaces English bishops and abbots with leading churchmen from France. For three hundred years French is the language of the English court and nobility.

- 1095 The crusades are launched.** Speaking at Clermont in France, the Pope (a French-man) appeals for volunteers to set out for Jerusalem, promising a remission of sins as the incentive. The response is overwhelming, and thousands of poorly armed pilgrims, set out. Beginning by massacring the Jews in the Rhine valley, most perish as they journey further east. The main army, consisting mainly of French and Norman knights, proceed to capture Jerusalem in 1099, setting up the “Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem”. The Muslims retake Jerusalem in 1187. In total eight crusades continue the "holy war" against the Muslims until 1270, with France playing a leading role throughout.
- 1208 A Revival of Biblical faith** breaks out across France, led by the Waldenses (East), Picards (North) & Albigenses (south).
- 1209** Pope Innocent III orders the fourth crusade, not against the Turks, but against the “enemies within”. The chief targets were the **Waldenses & the Albigenses** (probably Bible believing Christians), and the Cathari (dualistic heretics). Many are martyred. Others flee to Northern Italy.
- 1212** In "**The Children's Crusade**", a group of French children, led by the young Stephen of Cloyes, are promised free passage from Marseille to the Holy Land, hoping to recapture Christ's tomb. Instead they are sold into slavery
- 1231 The Inquisition** is established by the Pope, to deal with heretics, who were looked upon as enemies of society. Beginning at Toulouse, with Dominic, founder of the Dominicans (Black Friars) at its head, it quickly spread to other regions of France and from there to Spain and beyond. Thousands of Waldenses, Albigenses and others died at their hands.
- 1309** Pope Clement V (a French man) moves **the Papacy to Avignon** from Rome, marking the beginning of the so-called “Babylonian Captivity” of the papacy, a 70 year period during which all the popes were French, lived in Avignon, and were subject to French influence. When the papacy finally returns to Rome in 1378, a line of rival popes arise in Avignon, supported by France, Scotland, and parts of Spain & Italy.
- 1337** In **the Hundred Years War**, the French & English fight for control of territory in Scotland, Flanders and France.
- 1420** In the **Treaty of Troyes** the English King, Henry V, is named as the heir to the French throne. By this time England has captured half of France.
- 1429 Joan of Arc** convinces a board of theologians that she had a divine mission to save France from the oppression of the English. She leads the French in several military victories over the English in 1429. When she leads an unauthorized campaign the following year, she is tried and convicted of heresy for answering to God instead of the Roman Catholic Church. Joan of Arc is burned at the stake in 1431, but after 25 years the church overturns the conviction and later canonizes her.
- 1453** The French drive the English out of all of their territory except Calais, ending the **Hundred Years War**.
- 1514 The Scientific Revolution** begins, as Polish astronomer Copernicus discreetly circulates his discoveries that the earth is not the centre of the universe.

- 1516** The Pope agrees to give the French king the unique right of nominating bishops in his country. This so-called “Gallicanism” leads to the situation that in France, the Pope has less authority than the king in ecclesiastical matters. Nor can he challenge the ancient liberties of the Gallic Church. In the years that follow, one practical consequence of this concession is that the French king is not subject to the temptation of using the Reformation as an excuse to diminish the control of the Papacy in his country. This, in fact, becomes a significant, political factor that is used to spread the Reformation in other countries. Gallicanism remains in force until the first Vatican council, in 1869.
- 1517** **The reformation** begins with Martin Luther in Germany. It soon spreads across Europe and starts to take a strong hold in France. Within 40 years, 20-50 % of France is Protestant, depending on the region.
- 1535** **Persecution** of the reformation forces John Calvin to flee from France to Switzerland. Many other Protestants, or Huguenots as they were called, fled.
- 1562-1598** The **Wars of Religion begin**, following a terrible Massacre of a Protestant congregation at Vassy. The political and religious tensions created by the Reformation boil over into full scale civil war.
- 1572** The **St Bartholomew's Day massacre** of Protestants takes place. Catherine de Médicis, the mother of the French king is architect of the slaughter, having invited all the leaders of the Protestants to Paris for the wedding of her daughter. In Paris alone over 3,000 people are killed in one day, as the river runs red with their blood. The killings quickly spread through the provinces. A contemporary, Duke of Sully, estimates that 70,000 people were killed in these disturbances, which lasted 6 weeks.
- 1598** The wars of religion are brought to an end by the **Edict of Nantes**, signed in 1598 by King Henry IV. This gives recognition to the Protestant religion, and leads to a more-or-less peaceful co-existence between Catholics and Protestants for some years.
- 1608** **Quebec** (in North America) is settled by the French.
- 1627** The (Catholic) nobility are unhappy with a strong, independent Protestant city at **La Rochelle**, as established by the Edict of Nantes. Led by Cardinal Richelieu, the Royal forces besiege and capture the city, leading to the death of the 23,000 inhabitants.
- 1633** The Italian astronomer, **Galileo**, forced to recant his Copernican beliefs by the Inquisition, is sentenced to life imprisonment.
- 1635** The French settle the Caribbean islands of **Guadeloupe and Martinique**
- 1638** Louis XIII **consecrates France and all its people to the protection of the Virgin Mary, following an invasion of enemy forces from the North.** Childless for 22 years of marriage, the birth of a son shortly afterwards is seen to be a reward for this action, and is credited to the intercession of Mary. This child becomes Louis XIV, the so-called “SUN KING”, who rules with absolute power, calling himself “God’s representative on earth”. It is he who builds the great palace at Versailles, from

where he master-minds the most violent persecution of Protestants in the history of France, until his death in 1715.

- 1641** **Descartes** publishes his principal philosophical work, advocating systematic doubt as a method of arriving at the truth.
- 1660** Under **Louis XIV**, renewed persecution of Protestants breaks out. Churches and schools are closed down. Children are taken from their parents and “re-educated” in convents and monasteries, at the parents’ expense. In the next 25 years, 309 edicts were made against the Huguenots.
- 1685** The **Edict of Nantes is revoked**. Protestantism is outlawed, and no-one is allowed to emigrate from the country, under pain of being sent to the galleys or imprisoned for life. Thousands are killed, and hundreds of thousands risk their life, emigrating from France in preference to accepting Catholicism.
- 1688** A revival in the Cévennes is accompanied by strange phenomena. Thousands hear angelic voices singing in the night, or moanings in the sky accompanied by drums and trumpets, as when troops are given the order to charge. Thousands are converted and claim to have been “filled with the spirit”. Many experience miraculous powers and also supernaturally begin to prophecy. Young peasant children, able only to speak a common dialect, prophecy in perfect French. However intense persecution causes many within the movement to respond with violence. This became known as **The Camisards’ rebellion**.
- 1697** The French establish a colony on the western end of the island of **Saint Dominigue (Haiti)** creating the richest sugar-producing colony in the Caribbean. 20,000 whites watch over 160,000 restless black slaves.
- 1700s** The 18th century is the era of the **French Enlightenment**. French philosophers like Voltaire, and Rousseau, disillusioned with the despotism of the monarchy and the bigotry of the church, win popular support for social, political and economic reforms. They elevate human reason above religion.
- 1715** **Nantes becomes the premier slave port** in France. During the next 70 years, 1,427 slave expeditions are launched from there. Slaves, purchased from black slave merchants in Africa by payment of arms and alcohol are sold to the plantation owners in the Caribbean colonies of Guadeloupe, Martinique, and Saint-Dominigue (Haiti) to produce sugar cane and coffee. This in turn is exported back to France and refined at Nantes, Rochefort, and Bordeaux before being re-exported to central and northern Europe. This triangular trade grows 10-fold between 1715 and 1789. The value of these international exports in the 1780s amounted to nearly one-fourth of national income.
- 1763** In the Seven Years' War, the French lose **Canada and India** to the British
- 1768** The Genoese sell their ownership rights of **Corsica** to France, and French troops subsequently invade the island, making Corsica a province of France. Shortly afterwards Napoleon Bonaparte is born there. Had his birth been a few months earlier, he would have been Italian !

**1778** The French side with the Americans against the British in the **American war of Independence**. The contribution of their army and Navy is decisive in ensuring an American victory.

**1789** **The French Revolution** begins, as a national mood for change co-incides with severe economic hardship, brought about by war, famine and over-taxation by the inept Louis XVI. The revolution is an attempt to give birth to a new France, in which inherited privilege, the absolutism of the king and the hold of the church are to be ended. It is characterized by the Declaration of the Rights of Man, the end of the feudal system, the drafting of a constitution, reform of the church, and the reorganization of government. The idealism of the revolution, however, soon descends into anarchy and a reign of terror.

Although there are positive consequences of the Revolution, there is also a strong anti-Christian element. The Catholic clergy are forced to submit to civil control. When 3 bishops and over 220 priests are massacred for failing to do so, 30 - 40,000 priests flee to England, Spain and the Papal States. A de-Christianisation movement takes root, as the revolutionaries attempt to replace Catholicism with a state approved religion, known as **“The Cult of the Supreme Being”**. Churches are shut, their ornaments plundered, and a new calendar introduced which counts the beginning of the Revolution as “Year 0”. A 10 day week is also introduced in order to remove Sunday. The climax is the **“Festival of Reason”**, on 10th November 1793, held in Notre Dame Cathedral, now re-named “The Temple of Reason”. A line of patriotic maidens, dressed in white, parade reverently before a make-shift “Temple of Philosophy”, erected where the high altar had once stood. From this “temple”, at the climax of the ceremony, emerges a red-robed female figure, actually a local actress, representing Liberty. The cult of the Supreme Being is ordered to be observed throughout France.

**1799** **Napoleon Bonaparte**, having risen to command of the French Revolutionary armies, seizes political power as first consul in 1799 and proclaims himself emperor in 1804 in a ceremony presided over by Pope Pius VII.

During his rule more legislation is completed than in any other comparable period in French history, as he establishes order in every branch of local and national government. Bonaparte also consolidates the national debt, restores the value of French bonds, balances the budget, establishes the Bank of France, and centralizes the collection of taxes. He creates the Society for the Encouragement of National Industry and undertakes vast public works projects. He also brings the entire system of higher education under centralized state control.

These internal achievements are accompanied by the restoration of French supremacy abroad, with victories in Egypt, Austria, Italy, Holland, Switzerland, Germany and the Balkans. Believing that family ties were stronger than treaties, he places members of his family on the thrones of Naples, Holland, Westphalia, and Spain, and marries his relatives to some of the most distinguished families in Europe. Having divorced Josephine in 1809 because she had borne him no male heir, he then marries the daughter of Austrian Emperor. Within one year a son, the future king of Rome, is born.

**1801** Napoleon recognises **Roman Catholicism** as the main religion in France.

- 1803** Napoleon sells **Louisiana** to help finance his European wars. The price was 60 million francs (\$15 million) for 2 million sq km (800,000 sq miles) of land, extending from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains.
- 1804** The **Black slaves of Haiti**, inspired by the French Revolution, gain control of their country.
- 1814** Napoleon is defeated and the monarchy restored. A year later Napoleon returns to power, but is ultimately defeated at the **Battle of Waterloo** in 1815.
- 1844** **Tahiti** becomes a French protectorate. The other islands of **French Polynesia** are gradually annexed.
- 1846** **French Guiana** becomes France's main Penal colony. All convicts with sentences over 7 years were sent there. In all, between 50 - 70,000 prisoners were sent there. The only ones to leave alive were the 5,000 left when the prison closed in 1953.
- 1847** The French capture **Algeria**
- 1848** The February Revolution of 1848 dislodges Louis Philippe, **the last French King**, and establishes the Second Republic. Napoleon III, nephew to Napoleon Bonaparte becomes President.
- 1870** Alsace-Lorraine was lost in the Franco-Prussian war.
- 1880-1914** The major European powers divide up **Africa** between themselves.
- 1884** The French complete their capture of **Indo-China**.
- 1894** **The Dreyfus Affair** rocks France. Alfred Dreyfus, a senior army officer with a Jewish background is accused of selling military secrets to the Germans. His trial leads to a nation-wide surge of anti-Semitic feeling. It emerged later, though, that the military hierarchy had deliberately suppressed crucial evidence at his trial to protect themselves. When the novelist **Emile Zola** published an exposé, there was uproar in parliament. Anti-Semitic riots broke out in the provinces. Eventually Dreyfus was acquitted. The strength of feeling brought up by the case deeply divided the country.
- 1905** **Religion and the State** are constitutionally separated. Religious teaching is no longer permitted in State schools or universities.
- 1914-1918** France fights on the side of the Allies during **World War I**. One tenth of the country is laid waste, as 8 million men from every corner of the globe die on French soil. (1 million French killed, 3 million wounded).
- 1919** By the **Treaty of Versailles**, France recovers Alsace and Lorraine. She is also given a mandate to govern Syria, Lebanon (formerly part of the Ottoman Empire), and parts of the former German colonies of Togoland and Cameroon.
- 1939** France takes up arms with Britain to **defend Poland** against German aggression.
- 1940** **Germany invades France**. The government, under **Marshal Henri Pétain**, surrenders. The armistice he signs with Hitler leaves the Germans in occupation of about 2/3 of the country, including Paris, the northern part of France and the entire

Atlantic coast. In return, Pétain is placed in charge of the government of the unoccupied zone, where his **Vichy regime** collaborates closely with the Germans, providing economic support, suppressing resistance and organizing the deportation of over 75,000 Jews. Meanwhile **Charles de Gaulle** flees to London and begins to organise the French resistance.

- 1946** The **French Union** is set up to extend citizenship rights to natives of the French colonies. It also offers them limited autonomy instead of direct rule.
- 1947** The **Vietnam War** begins. When Vietnam declares itself an independent Communist Republic, France fights to keep its colony. The USA, fearing the spread of communism, helps France, by 1953 providing 80% of the cost of France's war effort.
- 1949** France is one of the 12 founder nations of **NATO**, established to deter potential Soviet aggression in Europe.
- 1954** France withdraws from **Indo-China**. At the same time, the FLN (**Algerian Nationalists**) proclaims a war of liberation, launching terrorist attacks against the French in both Algeria and France.
- 1957** France is a founding member of the **European Economic Community**.
- 1958** **Charles de Gaulle**, comes out of retirement to tackle the crisis over the war with Algeria. He drafts a new constitution, giving the president strong executive powers, thus establishing the Fifth Republic.
- 1962** **Algeria** is granted independence after a long and bloody civil war.
- 1963** De Gaulle and the German chancellor Konrad Adenauer sign the **Franco-German "reconciliation treaty"**, promoting the Franco-German relationship for the first time since 1870.
- 1967** De Gaulle **vetoes British entry** to the **European Economic Community**. He loosens ties with the USA and NATO, establishes French nuclear power and opens relations with Communist China.
- 1992** **The Maastricht treaty** on European integration is narrowly approved by French voters in a referendum.
- 1994** The **Channel Tunnel** under the English Channel is completed, providing a rail link between France and Britain.

# FRANCE AND THE JEWS

## THE JEWS IN FRENCH HISTORY

The land of France is stained with the blood of the Jews. Although not alone in this crime, there are times in history when the French have played a leading role in the persecution of God's people. To explain how some Jews came to be in France, we have to look back to the life-time of the first disciples.

In Jesus' life time, Israel was a part of the Roman empire. When the Jews tried to rebel against this foreign rule, the Romans besieged the city of Jerusalem. In 70 AD they captured and destroyed it, massacring all those inside. After that time the Jews were scattered across the Mediterranean and Middle-East, where they settled in new, marginalised communities.

## THE CHURCH LEADS THE WAY IN PERSECUTING THE JEWS

As Christianity spread, most of the Jews continued in their rejection of this new religion. The leaders of the early church soon abandoned Paul's habit of going to the Jew's first. Instead they started to avoid and despise them. By the 4th century they had come to believe that the Jews were under God's curse. This doctrine, prevalent in most of the church right up until the 20th century stated;

The Jews are the enemies of God and all that is good.

They crucified Jesus, and so were guilty of "Theocide" (killing God).

Their pride and hard-heartedness makes them blind to the truth in the holy scriptures, causing them to "trample under foot" God's precious revelation.

The destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, the world-wide dispersion of the Jews and the loss of their homeland is God's just punishment for their sins.

The hardships and persecutions they are now suffering are the righteous judgement of God.

The church has now replaced the Jews as God's chosen people.

The suffering of the Jews serves to illustrate what will happen to those who reject God's anointed authority.

As the Church became a dominant force in the Roman Empire, its leaders inspired many discriminatory laws, designed to curtail their rights and to separate them from Christian believers. At that time, as would happen so often in the centuries to come, the church led the way in anti Jewish feeling.

In the middle ages, the suffering of the Jews was intensified, again at the hand of the church. When the crusades were launched (in France, at the council of Clermont) the Pope, Urban II (a French-man) decreed that those who fought against the enemies of God were undertaking a religious work. They were promised a remission of all penances for sin as their reward. There was a huge surge of religious enthusiasm in France as thousands responded to the call. Dramatic "signs" were seen in the sky - meteor showers, which seemed to indicate God's approval of the scheme.

For the Jews in France this meant violent persecution. In what is often called “The First Holocaust”, thousands of Jews fled abroad or were subjected to a forced “conversion”, choosing baptism at the hands of their oppressors rather than death.

The crusaders’ army, consisting mainly of French and Norman knights, set off for the Holy Land. They began their journey with a great massacre of Jews in the Rhine valley. When they eventually captured Jerusalem, they destroyed the Jewish synagogue there, killing all those they found inside. All of this in the name of Christ and wearing the sign of the cross on their tunics !

The papacy tried to stop these forced conversions a century later, but it also forced the Jews to wear distinctive clothing, usually a yellow badge, to deter Christians from having dealings with them. In danger of bodily harassment at all times, they were forced to live in segregated areas. These “ghettos”, as they were called, were enclosed with walls and gates, and were kept locked at night and during Christian festivals. In Holy week the Jews were not allowed to be seen in public for three days.

Throughout the 13th & 14th century, numbers of Jews were expelled from France. Later, when the Black Death struck Europe killing almost one third of the population (1348), people blamed the Jews, saying they had poisoned the Christians’ wells. As a reprisal, one quarter of Europe’s Jewish population were killed. (In fact the plague came from China via a Genoese trading post on the Crimea.) Of the Jews left alive, many were expelled from France in 1353; and forty years later Jewish history in France virtually came to an end for 400 years, as Charles VI threw the remaining Jews out of his kingdom. Unwelcome in Spain, Portugal or England, they moved to the East, and established large communities in Turkey, Poland, Russia and the Ukraine.

The Revolution of 1789 gave an amnesty to the Jews. The promise of “Liberty, Equality and Brotherhood” and their subsequent protection by Napoleon caused many Jews to move to France, making them a sizeable minority by the time of the Second world war.

### **FRENCH JEWS IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR**

The treatment of the Jews during the Second World War has left a lasting stain on the French conscience. In 1940 the Germans occupied most of the country, and quickly started bringing discriminatory measures against the Jews. The deportations started in July 1942. Beginning in Paris, the city’s Jewish population was rounded up, not by German soldiers but by the Parisian police. Within two days, more than 13,000 Jews had been sent on towards the “final solution”. Even in the unoccupied zone, the French government under Marshal Pétain at Vichy, deprived the Jews of their rights and deported around 75,000 to the camps. In all an estimated total of 150,000 Jews were deported from France, of which 20,000 were children. Less than 3,000 came back alive.

In 1995, President Chirac publicly asked for forgiveness for France’s part in the Holocaust. This was followed in 1997 by a confession from the Bishops. Asking for the forgiveness of God and the Jews, they admitted that the church had promoted anti-Jewish feelings for centuries. This had been the foundation from which the more violent expression of the holocaust had arisen. Remaining silent in the face of such grave atrocities, they admitted that the church bore a heavy responsibility for the ensuing events.

Today France is home to about 700,000 Jews, the largest community in Europe and the fourth largest in the world. However, in spite of such clear, public statements from political and religious leaders, many French people still harbour prejudice and suspicion towards the Jews.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE JEWS

Nearly 4,000 years ago, God made a promise to Abraham. It was a promise that would last for ever, inherited by each generation of his descendants. In time it would affect the whole world. "I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse" (Genesis 12, 3). History shows us clearly how nations that fight against the Jews find themselves getting hurt. "Whoever touches you (the Jews) touches the apple of my eye" (Zechariah 2, 8).

Through the centuries, the church was given a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate to the Jews how much their promised messiah loved them. "Our eyes failed, looking in vain for help.....to a nation that could not save us. The Lord's anointed (messiah), our very life breath, was caught in their traps. We thought that under his shadow we would live among the nations" (Lamentations 4, 17 & 20). In their hour of greatest need, the Jews should have been able to find help from those called to be God's "Chosen people ...a Holy Nation" (1 Peter 2, 9). Instead the church led the way in their persecution.

## A PROPHETIC WORD; FRANCE AND THE JEWS

**Catherine Brown, 1998**

The vision began with the Lord's hand coming down out of Heaven. In His hand was a large thunderbolt. It had the form of a word, and when I looked closely, the Lord opened the palm of His hand and allowed me to see that the thunderbolt was fashioned out of the most beautiful platinum gold and formed the word ZION. I looked from my heavenly vantage point towards the earth, and saw that we were looking over the nation of France. I saw France clearly outlined.

As I looked more closely I could see that there was a thick layer of ice covering the entire surface of the area we know today as the country of France. There was no life that I could see; all I could see was ice. I noticed that there was a crack upon the ice and that it ran across the full surface of the ice. I could see that this crack was causing the surface of the ice to melt.

I asked the Lord what was under the ice and He allowed me to see. The ice had many, many layers and as I looked down through these plates of ice, I could see that they became thicker as they descended. At the very lowest level of ice, I saw a heart. The heart was blue and lifeless. It was moving, but the movement was just discernible. I knew the heart was close to dying.

I looked again to the Father and at this point I noticed He was crying. His tears were falling all the way from heaven, and were dropping onto the surface of the ice. I realized that it was the Father's tears that were melting the ice, and this was what had caused the ice to crack. I heard the Father say, "**France is dying for lack of love and for rejection of Zion**".

The Father then lifted His hand heavenward and with great fear and trepidation I watched His hand rise. Then He threw the thunderbolt within His right hand to earth. The thunderbolt struck the ice with unimaginable force.

The thunderbolt struck the surface of the ice and immediately broke it open; the bolt went down through every layer of ice, cutting a path through to the heart that was lying lifeless and blue. The thunderbolt speared right through the centre of the heart and instantly the heart began to

pump. I saw the heart change colour from blue to a healthy red. I saw that the word ZION seemed to be operating like the main artery of the once lifeless heart and the blood of the Lamb was flowing through the heart. The ice in the layers above melted as the heart continued to beat and the ice turned to water over the land.

### **Interpretation by Catherine Brown**

The ice in the vision is symbolic of the sins of the nation of France and these seem to fall into two main categories.

1. With specific regard to the children of Israel (because of the use of Zion and the heart) and
2. Cold love - towards the Lord evidenced as self-sufficiency and humanism in the nation.

The layers of ice are symbolic of generational sins passed down through family lines. The thunderbolt is symbolic of the power of the Lord and also of the children of Israel (for the Lord used the word ZION to fashion the thunderbolt). The thunderbolt was made of beautiful platinum gold - white gold, the finest and most beautiful gold - because that is how the Lord esteems the children of Israel.

The crack in the ice is indicative of the move of intercession in and for France, in repentance for the sins of the nation. The tears of the Father melted the surface of the ice in the vision, and the prayers of the saints are the conduit for the Father's tears. The crack is symbolic of the prayers that have already been offered up to the Lord for France - but there is more that needs to be done in the place of prayer.

The Lord spoke these words "France is dying for lack of love and for rejection of Zion". The blue heart in the vision is symbolic of this spiritual death over the nation, because of the sin of cold love and also the sins against the children of Israel by the nation of France. (I got a very strong impression whilst receiving this vision, that much of this is in regard to war crimes).

The release of the thunderbolt cut through every layer of ice (sin) and pierced the very heart (of the nation of France). But this piercing of the heart did not bring death - it brought Life. When the once blue heart (the people of France) became one with the thunderbolt (Zion - the Lord's heart for His children Israel), the thunderbolt became the main source of life for the heart, and life began to flow.

I believe that when the sins of the fathers have been repented of, and the nation of France receives the Lord's heart for the children of Israel, there will be a massive outpouring of the Spirit (symbolic of the ice melting - the "floodwaters" - bringing Life and Restoration).

There is also a very serious tone to this vision - the heart at the bottom of the ice would have died, if it had not received the Father's heart for Zion - it was a power encounter (thunderbolt). France must receive the Father's heart for the children of Israel - or spiritual death will result. It was swift and it was merciful, because the heart (of the nation of France) received the Lord's impingement. The heart was PIERCED - there will be a similar piercing in the hearts of the people of France as they cry out to the Lord and receive His revelation. But as with all sacrifices laid upon the Lord's altar - the price to be paid will pale into insignificance as the blessings of the Lamb are poured out upon the nation through the prayers of the broken and the humbled.

# FRANCE AND THE JEWS

## KEY FACTS

There are 700,000 Jews living in France, making it the largest Jewish community in Europe, and the fourth largest in the world.

320,000 live in Paris alone, with a further 100,000 in Marseille.

Throughout history the Christian Church in France has played a leading role in fuelling the discrimination and persecution of the Jews.

In the middle ages France slaughtered thousands of Jews and expelled many others.

In the Second World War, 150,000 Jews were deported from France. Less than 3,000 came back alive.

In 1995, President Chirac publicly asked for forgiveness for France's part in the Holocaust. This was repeated by the French bishops in 1997 on behalf of the church in France.

The French media often take a strong anti-Israel stance.

There is currently an orthodox revival among many of the Jewish communities in France

## POINTS FOR PRAYER

- 1) Pray that God would give the French a heart of respect and tolerance towards the Jews.
- 2) Pray that the church in France would develop a concern for the Jews.
- 3) Pray for the 700,000 Jews living in France, that many would come to know Jesus as their Messiah and Saviour.
- 4) There are 18 missionaries labouring among the Jews in France, in 5 different missions. Pray that their work would produce fruit.
- 5) There are currently around 500 - 600 Messianic believers in France. Pray that they would be strong in the face of pressure, and that they would be able to build good relationships with the rest of the Jewish community. Pray that as they grow in their faith they would be a shining light to those around them.
- 6) Pray that the French government and media would be wise and just in their dealings with Israel.

# RELIGIOUS PERSECUTIONS

## A VALLEY OF DRY BONES

Many intercessors have been led to pray for France out of Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones (Ezk. 37). In Ezekiel's valley, a great army must once have stood. But the army had been killed. What else could explain the presence of so many bones? As God led him to and fro through the valley, Ezekiel probably couldn't see why he was there. Why look again at the bones of those who died so long ago?

But God needed Ezekiel's words, his prayers, to perform a miracle of resurrection. Though the life had been taken from that army long ago, and its flesh had rotted away, the skeleton remained. So did God's calling to them, and the task they had to perform. Hidden for generations, like seed in the ground, the bones were waiting until the appointed time.

The Evangelical church in France, once a great army, has been persecuted from the very beginning. Coming in four main waves, each persecution has been more violent and thorough than the one before, and has almost succeeded in making this church extinct. Over the centuries, an estimated million believers have been killed for their faith, as the spiritual forces of evil have fought to wipe out God's army in that land. However God's gifts and call are irrevocable (Rom. 11, 29). The sacrifice of those martyrs long ago has not been forgotten by Him. Their blood cries out to Him from the ground. Their prayers, long dormant, are still awaiting the time of their answer. But God needs a modern-day Ezekiel to listen to His voice, understand His will, and pray into being the mighty army once again.

## PERSECUTION OF THE EARLY CHURCH

The church in France is built on a foundation of martyrdom. The pioneers of the Christian faith were frequently persecuted by the Roman empire (c. 117 - 200 AD). Denis (thought to be Dionysius the Areopagite of Acts 17, 34), converted through Paul's preaching in the city of Athens, became the first bishop of Paris. This old man had but one passion - to evangelise the Gauls. He led many Parisians to faith by his fiery preaching, including some members of the nobility. That caused the governor to imprison him, along with some of his disciples, and to subject them to severe torture. Remaining firm in the faith, they were eventually taken to Mont Mercure (now Mont Martre), where they were beheaded on 9th October 117 AD. For the next hundred years and beyond, the church in France underwent periods of severe repression, as it struggled to establish itself in the hostile spiritual climate.

## PERSECUTION DURING THE MIDDLE AGES

A revival of true biblical faith spread across France in the late 12th century, but was met by violent opposition. The Waldenses and the Albigenses (different from the heretical "Cathars") preached obedience to the scriptures, translated the Bible into their native tongue and denounced the corrupt state of the Roman church. But they soon met with persecution. At that time, Pope Innocent III was the most powerful man in the world. Those who put forward a different view or who stood against his authority were considered enemies of society. In 1209 the Pope decided that these heretics who translated the scriptures into the "vulgar tongue", and spoke out

against the Church, were a serious threat. So he launched a crusade (the 4th crusade), this time not against the Turks, but against the “enemy within”. Led by his personal legate, the Pope sent a formidable army, with several nobles and bishops at its head. The story that follows, paraphrased from **Foxe’s book of Martyrs**, gives a good impression of what happened to those who wouldn’t conform to the Church’s authority.

“The army proceeded to besiege the town of Beziers (near Toulouse), where the local earl, thinking it impossible to defend the place, came out, and begged for mercy for the inhabitants, pointing out that there were as many Roman Catholics as Albigenses in the town. The Papal legate replied that all excuses were useless. The city must be delivered over to their control, or the most dreadful consequences would follow. On returning to the city, the earl told the inhabitants that he could obtain no mercy unless the Albigenses would renounce their beliefs and conform to the church of Rome. Their reply was that they would not deny their faith in the hope of prolonging their earthly life; God was able, if He wished, to defend them. However if He wanted to be glorified by the witness of their faith even to death, they would consider it an honour to die for His sake.

The Catholics in the town sent their bishop to the legate, beseeching him not to include them in the punishment of the Albigenses. On hearing this, the legate flew into a rage, declaring; “Unless all the city acknowledges their fault, they will all taste of the same curse, without distinction of religion, sex or age”.

The town was taken by storm, whereupon every cruelty imaginable was practised. Nothing could be heard but the groans of men who lay weltering in their blood; the lamentations of mothers, who, after being cruelly ill-treated by the soldiers, had their children taken from them, and dashed to pieces before their faces. The city was set on fire, so that those who hid themselves in their dwellings either had to remain and perish in the flames, or to rush out and fall by the swords of the soldiers. The legate, during these proceedings, enjoyed the carnage, crying out to the troops, “Kill them, kill them all. Kill man, woman and child. Kill Roman Catholics as well as Albigenses; for when they are dead the Lord knows how to select his own”. Thus the beautiful city of Beziers was reduced to a heap of ruins; and sixty thousand people of different ages and both sexes were murdered”.

The saddest thing about this story is that it is not unique. In this crusade, as in the waves of persecution that followed, whole villages were often destroyed, on the grounds that they contained a large a number of “heretics”.

In spite of such wholesale massacres, the Pope was unable to stamp out these movements by his crusade. Trying a different approach, he established the notorious **“Inquisition”**, - a religious “court” to try anyone suspected of heresy. The first of these was situated at Toulouse in 1231, with Dominic, founder of the Dominicans (or Black Friars) as the Inquisitor General. Its success caused it to spread to the surrounding provinces and lands, where the notorious Spanish Inquisition became the most well known. Aided by an army of friars spread around the countryside, anyone suspected of even being sympathetic to the heretics was brought before the Inquisition. Trials were short. An accusation was usually enough to prove guilt. Torture, officially authorised by the Pope in 1252, was routinely used to obtain confessions and the names of other heretics. Those who recanted were sentenced to punishments ranging from the confiscation of their property to life imprisonment. Those who refused to repent were executed. The inquisition, continuing pursuit for two centuries, succeeded where the crusades had failed. Those believers who weren’t killed or imprisoned fled to Italy or Switzerland.

## THE REFORMATION AND THE HUGUENOTS

The next wave of persecution hit France as the reformation started to challenge the religious and political status quo. Beginning with Martin Luther in 1517, the movement soon won converts in France. Equally quickly it came under fire, as the Catholic nobility became wary of this new rival. In 1523 the first Protestant was burned at the stake in Paris, an indication of the trouble to come. In this climate of hostility, some Huguenots (as the French Protestants were called) became more provocative. In the “Affair of the Placards” (1534), posters attacking the mass were found on walls throughout Paris, even on the door of the King’s bedroom. This gave the Catholics occasion to persecute their rivals more intensely. As a result, many leaders of France’s Reformation were forced to flee to Strasbourg, Geneva or other safe places.

The growth rate of the reformed church in France was astonishing. Within 45 years of Martin Luther’s first reforms, Coligny, one of the political leader of the Protestants, put the number of Reformed churches at 2,150. The 3 million members made up about 20% of the population. Writing just a few years afterwards, the (Catholic) Cardinal of Sainte-croix estimated that more than half of the kingdom was now Huguenot. Several new churches were opening every week. Thousands were truly converted and aligned themselves with the reformers because of a genuine religious experience. But there were others who adopted the cause for political motives, including some who wanted to use it as a way of settling old scores.

In 1562 there was a terrible massacre of a Protestant congregation at Vassy, led by the champion of the Catholics in France, the Duke of Guise. 1,200 people had gathered for worship in a barn. As the minister began to preach, 200 armed men broke in crying out; “Death of God! Kill these Huguenots”. Paying no attention to age or sex, they started to shoot and strike down those inside with their swords. Some of the congregation managed to escape from the barn. Doubting that they would be safe in the town, they jumped off the high city walls and fled, wounded into the woods and vineyards, pursued by the soldiers. A great number were killed at that time, and even more were seriously wounded, losing a hand, arm or leg in the attack.

At this point, the Huguenot nobles decided they could remain passive no longer. Ignoring the words of John Calvin, the exiled leader of the French Reformation, to “Flee from Babylon” (escape from France), the Protestant nobles declared that now their only hope was in God and arms. They signed a manifesto in which they stated that, as loyal subjects, they were driven to take up arms for liberty of conscience and on behalf of the persecuted saints. So began the “Wars of Religion”, which were to last for 38 years. Terrible atrocities were committed by both Catholics and Protestants. The worst of these was probably the **Saint Bartholomew’s Day Massacre**. Lulled by a promise of peace, 3,000 leading Protestants went to Paris to attend the wedding of the King’s sister (Catholic) to a leading Huguenot. Shortly before dawn on August 24th, the bell of Saint-Germain-l’Auxerrois began to toll. At this pre-arranged signal, the Catholics began to slaughter all the Huguenots in the city. In one day several thousand were murdered in Paris alone. The River ran red with the blood of the corpses. The uprising quickly spread through the provinces, leading to an estimated 30 -50,000 deaths in the 6 weeks following. When the Pope heard of the massacre, he had a medal struck to celebrate the event.

The wars of religion continued until 1598, when the Edict of Nantes brought them to an end. Allowing the Protestants to hold public worship in many parts of the kingdom, though not in Paris, it also granted them full civil rights, and established a special court to deal with any disputes arising from the edict. Catholicism was also restored to all areas where it had been interrupted, but any extension of Protestant worship was made legally impossible.

## THE REVOCATION OF THE EDICT OF NANTES

The French Roman Catholic clergy, however, could not accept the Huguenots, even in such a limited expression,. They worked tirelessly to deprive them of their rights. General harassment and the forced conversion of thousands continued. From 1660 the situation became much more serious. At that time Louis XIV ruled with absolute authority. He believed that the key to a strong France was “un roi, une foi, une loi”. (One king, one faith, one law). The Protestants didn't fit into this vision. So he started to bring them forcibly into line. First he shut down their churches. Between 1660 and 1684, two-thirds of the whole number were pulled down. Protestant schools and hospitals were shut. Children were frequently taken from their families and placed, at the parents expense, in convents and monasteries for “re-education” as Catholics.

When this failed to eradicate the Huguenots, Louis XIV used more extreme forms of persuasion - the “Dragonnades” (1681). The method was simple. Companies of soldiers (dragoons) were billeted in the homes of the Huguenots. Living with them day and night, the Dragoonades were instructed to do everything they could, short of killing their victims, to make them give up their faith. So they brutalised, flogged, tortured and terrorised the Protestants. They met with great success. In the province of Béarn, for example, 22,000 “conversions” were obtained in a few weeks.

The final blow came in 1685, when Louis XIV revoked the Edict of Nantes. At a stroke, the remaining rights of the Huguenots were removed. Thereafter it became illegal to be Protestant. The Ministers of the Protestant churches were given 15 days to leave the country. They had to leave behind any children over 7 years old, as well as all their property and possessions. Emigration for all others was now made illegal. Anyone caught attempting to leave the country would be sentenced to the harshest punishments. This meant life imprisonment for the women, whilst the men were condemned to slave-labour in the “galleys”, huge warships of the navy. Chained night and day to their rowing benches, along with convicted criminals and captured Turks, their life was a gruelling, physical ordeal. Supervisors with heavy whips ensured they never slacked for a moment. The only reprieve was death.

None-the-less, in spite of these threats, an estimated 400,000 left the country in the years following. This exodus continued until the Protestants were given an amnesty after the French Revolution in 1789. Bound for Switzerland, Germany, Holland, Britain, South Africa or America, many of France's best craftsmen and traders, soldiers, sailors and nobles left the country, taking their money and skills with them.

Worship continued in the so-called “Churches of the Desert”. Meeting secretly, in wild and inaccessible spots like caves, deserts and forests, the church continued to be pursued. If these secret meetings were discovered, the congregation often paid with their lives.

## A PROPHETIC WORD; THE LEGACY OF THE HUGUENOTS

**Anne Griffiths, July 1998**

I saw two armies for France. One army was already in the land. The other was an army from outside the land who will help with the harvest. The second army was coming from the nations that had been blessed by the Huguenots. After the many persecutions and martyrdoms, many

Huguenots chose exile, believing the verses that said if you are persecuted in one city, flee to another.

The Lord spoke to me again, about Mount Aigoual (Mount of the Eagle). He told me to go to the Mountain and “To call in the Eagles from the North, the south, the East, and the West” - to call them back home, because there was great need. I saw certain of these countries clearly - USA, Canada, United Kingdom, Holland, Russia, South Africa, and Germany. The one thing these countries had in common was the welcome that they gave to the Huguenot refugees. I believe that the Lord is now looking down the generations to some of the descendants of these refugees, and giving them a call to return.

I also visited some of the caves in the Cevennes region (the Cevennes region is famous for its caves). The Lord has told me many times that there is a seed of revival hidden in the depths of these caves. 300 years ago, the French revival was aborted. The Protestant cause was in ruins. The prophetic movement, I believe, had gone off track (the “Camisards”), and hatred between Protestant and Catholic had led to bloodshed and martyrdom on a huge scale. I saw that the pure seed was taken and hidden away until the appointed time. 300 years is a long time to wait, but I believe it is time to water this precious seed again. These caves were also used by Huguenots for secret services after their buildings had been torn down. They became “assemblies in the desert”. Many paid with their lives for being a part of these services.

One cave I visited was famous for having been a place where a secret assembly was discovered by troops. The pastor in charge was beaten to death, the men sent to the galleys and the women to prison, the children to convents to be re-educated as Catholics. Such were the times, and the case is not unusual. I “saw” writing on the wall of this cave saying “Suivez-moi” (Follow me). The Lord spoke about a very radical call to follow Him. It seemed to me that I was being watched by the crowd of witnesses, spoken of in Hebrews 12. I sensed that they had seen the events which happened 300 years ago, and were still watching. I also felt a distinct impression that the Huguenots of the past were a part of this crowd. They were trying to pass a baton on to us, as in a relay race. They had waited a long time for people who were ready to take the baton from them. I got a feeling that many had come to that point, but had refused to take it because the price was too high.

The Lord then took me to Revelations 6; 9-11, where the martyrs of the past call out to God for vengeance from under His throne. I heard the Lord asking me what would best answer this call. I had never considered this before. Yet I heard a very clear answer; “Qu'on complete leur oeuvre” (“that their task should be completed”). They were not allowed to finish their task, and it remains to this generation.

I saw the price of France. It was a high one that needed radical people who would risk their all for Him and who would follow Him all the way to the cross, if necessary. I believe that the Lord will honour every drop of blood shed by these martyrs, and that nothing from the past will be wasted.”

# RELIGIOUS PERSECUTIONS

## KEY FACTS

St Dennis, the first Bishop of Paris was beheaded as a martyr in 117 AD.

Over the centuries, an estimated million believers were killed because of their faith. A further million were forced to flee to other countries.

In 1209 the Pope authorises the 4th crusade, this time not against the Turks, but against the “enemy within” - those “heretics” who would not conform to the authority of the Catholic church.

The much feared “Inquisition” begins, in Toulouse, France in 1231. Its dramatic success led to the spreading of this institution to the surrounding provinces and lands, where the notorious “Spanish Inquisition” became the most famous.

In 1562 a terrible massacre of a Protestant congregation at Vassy forced the French Protestants to take to arms. In the “Wars of Religion” that followed, terrible atrocities were committed on both sides.

In 1572, 3,000 Protestant leaders are lured to Paris under a false promise of peace. In the “Saint Bartholomew’s Day Massacre”, several thousand Protestants are murdered in Paris, followed by the death of 30 - 50,000 others in the weeks following, as the blood-shed quickly spread to the provinces.

When the Edict of Nantes was revoked in 1685, it became illegal to be a Protestant. Over 400,000 fled the country in the following years.

## POINTS FOR PRAYER

- 1) Pray that the evil spiritual forces, so violently at work in France’s history, would be bound in Jesus’ name.
- 2) Pray for those believers in France today who are marginalised, pressurised or rejected for their faith. Pray also for those who make life difficult for them.
- 3) Pray for righteousness in central and local government, which often makes life difficult for evangelicals, regarding them as a manipulative cult. Pray for wise laws that won’t restrict the spreading of the gospel.
- 4) Pray for right relations between Catholics and Protestants, and also between the different strands within Protestantism. Pray for a change in the present spiritual atmosphere where misunderstandings frequently arise, leading quickly to suspicions and entrenched positions.
- 5) Pray that this land, so defiled by the shedding of innocent blood, would be cleansed by the blood of Jesus. (See Numbers 35, 33; Genesis 4, 10 & 11; Revelation 6, 9 - 11).
- 6) Pray that the nations, blessed by the Huguenots, would become a source of help to the French church. Pray that those called to return would hear and obey, regardless of the personal cost.
- 7) Pray for a strong church to rise up, like the army in Ezekiel 37. Pray that they would walk in the purpose and power of God’s calling.

# FRANCE AND THE NATIONS

## FRANCE AND THE NEW WORLD

Since the break up of the Roman empire, the history of Europe has been characterised by the larger countries competing against each other for land and power. Over the centuries these nations have balanced out each other's ambitions, and dominance has revolved between them.

The discovery of the new world by Christopher Columbus in 1492, broadened the theatre of conflict, and these age-old rivalries spilt out across the globe. The great rush to claim new territories and obtain maximum advantage from their exploitation had begun, a race which would continue unabated into the 20th century. By the beginning of the First World War, the great European powers, their colonies and former colonies extended over approximately 85% of the earth's surface, whilst their economic and political control reached almost the entire globe.

Gaining colonies was an easy way for a country to extend its territories and win prestige. They were also easy sources of wealth. The colonies were thought to exist solely for the economic benefit of the mother country, who would draw raw materials from them and sell them finished goods. The balance always favoured the European country. This trade was monopolistic, with foreign intruders barred. Finally, colonies often became levers of military power. They were useful sources of military manpower and supplies, as well as providing bases for armies and navies.

### THE FATE OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The indigenous people were generally few, ethnically and geographically divided, and their primitive weapons were no match for the guns of the Europeans. The invaders had no thought of co-habitation. They often removed the local population, either by killing them off, or by forcing them into special reservations. When the local population was perceived to be useful, they were kept for forced labour on the settlers' farms or mines.

The settlers changed these countries forever. The land now taken was surveyed to see how it might bring the best profit. Often it was used for mining or commercial agriculture, to provide products required in the mother-land. Colonisation became the death blow to many indigenous cultures. Traditional ways of life, unchanged for centuries, started to disappear, as the defeated population was forced to adapt to the culture of their conquerors.

The colonists further controlled the indigenous population by creating a money-based economy. Those lucky enough to maintain their freedom were forced to work in poorly paid jobs to earn the money needed for taxes and land-rents. They also became the consumers of goods imported from the home-land, as the colonies became the markets for French exports.

## THE SLAVE TRADE

The huge plantations in the colonies demanded a vast quantity of workers which simply couldn't be found. Furthermore, the plantation owners wanted to avoid paying wages. That would eat into their profits. Hence began the cruel trade by the Europeans that would result in 12 - 15 million Africans being taken to the New World as slaves. France played a significant role in this, with Nantes becoming the premier slave port in France by 1715. During the next 70 years, 1,427 slave expeditions were launched from that one port alone. Slaves, purchased from black slave merchants in Africa by payment of arms and alcohol were shipped to the colonies in the most appalling conditions. Chained day and night throughout the six week voyage, many died en route. Those who made it alive were sold to the plantation owners in the Caribbean colonies of Guadeloupe, Martinique, and Saint-Domingue (Haiti) to produce sugar and coffee. The sugar cane and coffee was in turn exported back to France, refined at Nantes, Rochefort, and Bordeaux before being re-exported to central and northern Europe.

The slaves were cruelly abused, forced to gruelling physical labour under the hot sun from dawn to dusk, whipped if found slacking. Life-expectancy was short; their life was of little value to the settlers. Those who died could easily be replaced by the huge quantity of new arrivals. In Saint-Domingue alone, 20,000 whites stood an uneasy watch over 160,000 black slaves.

Slavery in France continued, with a very brief reprieve during the revolution, until 1848. From 1807, when slavery was abolished in England, French slave ships were frequently attacked by the English navy. To avoid being taken, the crew often threw their whole cargo of slaves into the sea, roped together and weighed down with an anchor, to remove the proof that they had been carrying slaves.

## A HISTORY OF FRENCH COLONISATION

Country/Colony	Becomes a Colony/ Overseas Department/ Dependency	Lost to France/ Becomes an Independent Nation
Algeria	1847	1962
Benin	1882	1960
Burkina Faso (Upper Volta)	1903	1960
Cameroon	1919	1960
Canada (New France)	1534	1763 (Conceded to British)
Central African Republic	1911	1958
Chad	1910	1960
Comoros Islands	1843	1975
Congo	1883	1960
Ivory Coast	1893	1960
Djibouti	1884	1977

French Guiana	1624 (1667)	Still a Department
Gabon	1910	1960
Guadeloupe	1635	Still a Department
Guinea	1895	1958
Indo-China	1884	1954
Lebanon	1923	1946
Louisiana	1682	1803 – Sold by Napoleon to finance European War
Madagascar	1895	1958
Mali	1800's	1960
Martinique	1635	Still a Department
Mauritania	1904	1960
Mayotte	1843	Still a Department
Mauritius	1721	1814
Morocco	1912	1956
New Caledonia	1853	Still a Department
Niger	1904	1960
(Quebec)	1534 (1608)	1763
Reunion	1600's	Still a Department
Saint Pierre & Miquelon	1604	Still a Department
Saint Dominique (Haiti)	1697	1804 – The first black colony to win its independence
Saint Martin (Northern Half)	1648	Still a Department
Senegal	1817	1960
Seychelles	1756	1814
Syria <sup>1</sup>	1923	1941
Tahiti/French Polynesia	1844 (1880)	Still a French Territory
Togo	1914	1960
Tunisia	1881	1956
Wallis & Futuna	1887	Still a Department
Vanuatu	1914 (joint French & British Condominium)	1980

## **THE LEGACY OF THE COLONIES**

France's colonial rule has left a legacy of bitterness around the world. Many countries harbour great resentment towards France, for the way that She has enriched herself by exploiting their resources, whilst they remain poor to this day. The luxurious life-style of the educated French in the colonies stood out in stark contrast to the poverty of the locals, and created among them a desire to have a similar standard of living. Their inability to achieve this has often given rise to bitterness and resentment. It has also created a desire to emigrate to France, which is seen as a sort of "Utopia", a land of promise and wealth.

This illusion, coupled with a great demand for low-paid workers in France's industry during the 60's and 70's, fuelled a major wave of immigration into France. In recent years, France has admitted over 10 million immigrants. Today, international minorities, from North Africa, West Africa, the Middle East and Indo-China, make up about 13.7% of the total population.

Few articles of France's Republican philosophy are more sacrosanct than the principle that all citizens are equal, and have the same relationship with the state. Whether their origins are in Algeria, Senegal, Corsica or Alsace-Lorraine, French citizens are deemed by the state to be identical in their "French-ness". However the melting pot of integration, which turned generations of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese into "Frenchmen" is proving far less efficient at assimilating the post-war waves of immigrants from non-European cultures. Their quest for a better life usually ends on one of the poor housing estates ringing France's big cities. Here the high crime rates, unemployment and sub-standard living conditions accentuate their feelings of discontent. Isolated from the mainstream of France's wealth and society, they are further threatened by the xenophobia of the far right, which has commanded up to 15% of the vote in recent elections.

Many of the former French colonies are among the least evangelised areas of the world. There was never the stream of missionaries that, for example, accompanied the British overseas expansion. Although the Catholic Church was active in sending missionaries, in many cases Catholicism has become nothing more than a veneer over the traditional spirit worship. In Haiti, for example, where 95% of the population is of pure African descent, 75% of the population are nominally Catholic. But the same percentage are actively involved in Voodooism (African Witch-craft). The Saints' days become occasions for traditional dances and the calling up of spirits. Haiti has twice been dedicated to Satan, first in 1791, re-affirmed in 1991 by President Aristide.

## **FRENCH OVERSEAS INVOLVEMENT TODAY**

Today France retains possession of significant islands and territories in the Pacific, Indian Ocean and the Caribbean. Inhabitants are considered to be French citizens. Many of these territories are valuable because of their mineral wealth or strategic location, factors that make France unwilling to relinquish control to inhabitants. Continued ownership also enables France to maintain a global economic and military presence.

France nurtures a strong relationship with Her former colonies. Each year there is a summit of the heads of state and other ministers from each French speaking country. France maintains military bases in a number of these countries and has an interest in some of their

conflicts. There are also significant economic ties between France and the Francophone world. Many of the currencies are directly linked to the value of the Franc, and France is usually their main trading partner. Education often follows the French system, and a high percentage of government ministers, civil servants and industrialists will be trained in France. The influence of the French culture also shouldn't be under-estimated. In many parts of the world French is considered it to be the language of great culture and the elite.

The France of today is still one of the most significant world powers, with a giant economy, a large, modern army and nuclear capability. As one of the architects of the European Union, now the largest economic trading block in the world, She exercises a key influence in policy and in the development of closer political and economic ties.

## **A PROPHETIC WORD; A NEW IDENTITY FOR FRANCE**

**Anne Griffiths, May 2000**

The Lord started talking to me about the make up of the French nation, and that there is really no such thing as a pure "French" man, as there had been so much immigration and movement of peoples for centuries. In most French families there would be evidence of this.

Then I saw that the French Flag, the "Tricolore", was being taken down from its flag post. It disappeared, and then I saw a Frenchman. This man had been beheaded, and his own head full of reasoning and logic had been replaced by the head of Jesus. The heart was beating, but it was the heart of a man who loved the Jews, and who suffered and rejoiced with them.

The Lord showed me the map of the former French colonies and said that the backbone of this new spiritual Frenchman was going to be like the backbone of Africa. The backbone rose up out of the earth and was strong and flexible, made up of the huge strength of the African Church. Then we visited the tiny islands like Martinique and Guadeloupe and the Lord gathered them in to become the fingers and toes of the new man. Without them, the man would be unable to move.

Right across the map of the world, parts of this man rose up and un-flexed himself as if he had been there all along, but had been waiting to be released from a kind of sleep. It is rather like a huge giant who awakes and who suddenly realises his potential and authority in a way that he did not see before.

Then the man started to blow a long horn. He was facing the Atlantic Ocean and its sound could be heard in Quebec. The Canadians recognised it, but I did not see their response. They were simply stopping what they were doing in order to listen. This trumpet was in their spiritual language but it was a language that they hadn't heard for a long time. I had a sense that this was a call to them to come and be a part of this new Frenchman, and that he will not be complete without them. The knees of Quebec seemed to bend, and I had a sense that a deep intercessory call was going out here - one of repentance. The knees enabled the man to kneel in prayer and brokenness - French Canada has a strong role to play here.

I feel that as this trumpet begins to sound, that other parts will be made clear, until that whole new man is functioning as the Lord intends.

## FRANCE AND THE NATIONS

### KEY FACTS

22 countries use French as their official language. For several others it is the co-official language. This accounts for 112 million who speak French as their first language, and a further 60 million who use French as a second language.

France, along with the other large European nations, colonised vast areas of America, Africa, Polynesia, the Caribbean, and Indo-China, usually with the express purpose of economic and political exploitation.

Between 1715 and 1785, 1,427 African slave expeditions were launched from the French port of Nantes.

Many of the former French colonies are among the least evangelised areas in the world.

For many in France's former colonies, the Catholic religion is little more than a veneer over the traditional spiritual worship. In Haiti 75% of the population are nominal Catholic, while the same percentage are actively involved voodooism (African witch-craft).

France continues to maintain a strong relationship with Her former colonies, with significant economic, educational, and military ties.

In recent years France has admitted 10 million immigrants from many diverse nations. 13.7% of Her population is made up from international minorities.

French Guiana, Guadeloupe and Martinique, Mayotte, Reunion, Saint Pierre, Miquelon, and French Polynesia are still governed as overseas departments, all being represented in the French National Assembly.

### POINTS FOR PRAYER

1. Ask for forgiveness for the way that France has treated the indigenous peoples and African slaves in the past. Pray that her future relations with the Francophone world would be motivated out of a sincere desire to help, rather than as a way of exercising control or making a profit.
2. Pray for the peoples who were, or still are in France's empire. Pray that they might have a healthy attitude towards France. Pray that they would be able to take their own place in God's plan, alongside France.
- 3) Pray that the gospel would spread and strong churches would be established throughout the Francophone world.
- 4) Pray that the church in France would take up the opportunity to love the immigrants, and may have a powerful witness among their communities.
- 5) Pray for right relationships between the nations of Europe. Pray that where they once brought oppression and death, now they would bring freedom and life.

## AN “ENLIGHTENED” SOCIETY?

“My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water; and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns, that cannot hold water”.

Jeremiah 2, 13

### THE ENLIGHTENMENT

The Enlightenment (French; “Si cle de lumi res” - “Age of the Enlightened”) was a movement of thought which dominated the Western World during the 17th and 18th Centuries. In essence it was a movement about human reason. Man has come of age, it proclaimed. No longer can life be guided by ancient superstitions (religion). Nor should there be an unquestioning acceptance of the way the world is. Rather man must use his mind. Only by asking questions can he hope to arrive at the truth.

Raising doubts about God and the Church, man and the natural world, society and how it is governed, the Enlightenment created a new view of the world. This spread very quickly from the philosophers’ page to the market place of the Western capitals, and became the inspiration behind the American and French revolutions. Its principles have been widely accepted in Western society, making it one of the corner-stones of today’s secular mind-set.

Although the thinking of the Enlightenment was wide-spread in Europe and beyond, this movement was pre-eminently shaped in France. Most of its leading philosophers were French; those who weren’t (for example, John Locke) wrote in response to the events unfolding within her borders. In order to understand this movement, therefore, we need to consider the world that gave it birth.

### THE ABSOLUTISM OF THE KING

Since the arrival of the reformation in the early 16th century, France had been in turmoil. Two long centuries were dominated by a struggle for the place of authority. Religion was at the heart of the battle. In the violent conflicts that followed, imprisonment and martyrdom, religious war and forced exile were all too common.

It was Louis XIV who settled the issue. During his 72 year reign he elevated the French monarchy to its highest place. Ruling with absolute power from the magnificent palace he built at Versailles, his vision for France was “Un roi, une foi, une loi” (One king, one faith, one law). The “Sun King”, as he was called, saw himself as God’s representative on earth, and gave no place to dissenters. His pitiless persecution of the Huguenots led to emigration on a scale never witnessed before, and caused endless misery. This policy gave birth to a national mood of dissatisfaction, matched in strength only by the outrage abroad, and was a key factor in the birth of the Enlightenment. Historians agree that Louis’ actions ultimately served to bring about the opposite of what he intended, setting in motion a train of events that would lead to the end of the monarchy and the dis-establishing of the Catholic Church.

## **THE CORRUPT STATE OF THE CHURCH**

The behaviour of many within the Catholic establishment in France was also a factor behind its grave loss of prestige during these years. At that time the church owned about ten percent of the land. The parish clergy were entitled to collect the “tithes” to pay for their upkeep, a religious tax amounting to one tenth of every person’s livelihood. They were very comfortably off, in a country where few were rich enough to own a small plot of land. However, the Bishops, abbots and other members of the religious hierarchy made the clergy seem poor in comparison. Their salaries were commensurate to the huge political power they enjoyed. Ever since the Concordat with the Pope in 1516, the King had exercised the right to appoint all the Bishops and senior Abbots in France. He gave most of these sought after benefices to the younger sons of the greater nobles, otherwise a burden to their family’s fortunes. In 1789, the entire Episcopate but one was of noble birth, and a quarter of all sees were in the hands of just thirteen families!

The role of the Catholic Church in the religious persecutions was another factor that undermined people’s confidence. The common people grew tired of the intolerance and violence of those who were meant to give a spiritual lead. The Clergy’s justification, that they were motivated by the care of souls and were executing Divine judgement in destroying the heretics, rang hollow. People judged them to be defending their own positions of privilege and the luxuries they enjoyed in their often irreligious private lives.

It is not surprising, in this context, that the Church, and the foundations of its authority, should become the subject of such a critical examination by the men of the Enlightenment.

## **THE SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTION**

In 1514, the Polish astronomer, Copernicus, discreetly started to circulate an outline of his findings. They were to revolutionise the intellectual world and mark the beginning of the Scientific Revolution. His discoveries about the universe came about as a result of astronomical observations and mathematical calculations, and changed people’s entire view of the universe. No longer could the earth be considered as the centre of the cosmos, he claimed. Rather, it was one celestial body among many, on the edge of a very large universe.

The Copernican revolution found an able advocate in the Italian, Galileo. His experiments were helped by the recent invention of the telescope, and removed all reasonable doubts to the theory. This radically altered world-view came as a profound shock to many, however. It seemed to throw doubts on the authority of the Bible, the uniqueness of man, and even the existence of God. Galileo’s views thus brought him into sharp dispute with the Roman Catholic church. In 1633 he was summoned before the Inquisition, where he was forced on his knees to renounce the theory expressed in his book. Afterwards he was condemned to life imprisonment for “vehement suspicion of heresy”.

It is significant that Copernicus’ findings came simultaneously with Martin Luther’s dramatic revelations. Both presented the world from a completely new view point (Luther re-discovered that it was the Bible, not the Church, that should be at the centre of the Christian faith). The movements that developed from these twin discoveries are often portrayed as incompatible. In fact Copernicus, a devout believer, Isaac Newton, and many other pioneers of the Scientific

Revolution were vocal advocates that it was possible to retain a Christian faith whilst pursuing Science.

## **A PHILOSOPHY OF DOUBT**

The French philosopher, Rene Descartes, is regarded as one of the most influential thinkers in human history, and the father of modern philosophy. A contemporary of Galileo, he wrestled to produce a philosophy to support the science of the Copernican world-view. In seeking to devise a method for reaching the truth, he taught the strategy of scepticism. To discover the real truth, he said, you must start by doubting the validity of what you think you know. Then you should try and prove it, as if trying to solve a mathematical problem. Belief should be withheld from anything that is not entirely certain.

On hearing of the condemnation of Galileo in Rome, Descartes suppressed publication of his book “Le Monde” (The World), which wasn’t published until after his death.

## **THE FLOWERING OF HUMAN REASON ?**

Thus the Enlightenment was formed as a reaction to the tyranny of the kings and the bigotry of the church, in an age when Science and logic was seen to explain everything. Advocating natural instead of divine law, reason against superstition, anticlericalism versus church domination, and justice as opposed to privilege, the French philosophers acted as the tutors of 18th century Europe. In this cosmopolitan culture, where French was the preeminent language, they became the prophets of a new, enlightened age that instilled dissatisfaction with the Old Regime.

In the political realm, the Enlightenment was responsible for profound change. Where the state had once been viewed as an earthly approximation of an eternal order, with the city of man modelled on the city of God, now it came to be seen as a mutually beneficial arrangement among men, aimed at protecting the natural rights and self-interests of each. These sentiments eventually led to reform in England and revolution in America and France.

Freemasonry also owes its existence to the Enlightenment. Although many would trace its roots back much further, through the guilds of craftsmen who worked on Europe’s great cathedrals, even to the building of Solomon’s temple in the Old Testament. Yet the modern movement of Freemasonry began with the formation of the first Grand Lodge, in London 1717. John Desaguliers is the man generally acknowledged as the “Father of new Masonry”. He transformed the institution from a dying order of stone masons into the influential movement known around the world today. Born at La Rochelle, France, in 1683, he was the son of a Huguenot minister who was forced to flee France’s religious persecutions. Taking a ship to England, this clergyman was forced to hide two year old John in a wine cask to avoid detection.

Desaguliers studied experimental philosophy and science at Oxford, and went on to become the first Science Lecturer in Europe. His classes were hugely popular, and London’s high society crowded to hear him. In 1719 Desaguliers became the Grand Master of London’s first Grand Lodge. It was he who gave the Masonic order most of its ritual, along with the “deistic” concept of God as “The Great Architect and Creator of the Universe”. It became very fashionable to join this new movement, that advocated a fusion of scientific thinking, humanistic endeavour and a rational religion. The equality enjoyed by the brethren lent a further appeal. Within the

movement, even the officers were chosen on the grounds of their merit rather than their station in life.

Lodges mushroomed abroad. In France, for example, between 1732 and 1793, nearly 900 Masonic lodges sprung up. Between 1773 and 1779 alone, over 20,000 new members were recruited. With the philosophy of the Enlightenment as their common back-drop, these educated members felt a one-ness that transcended barriers of geography or race.

As their numbers swelled, their influence grew, not least because many of their leaders came from the top ranks of society. They quickly became a significant political force, responsible in part for the spreading of the humanistic ideals. Many of the well-known leaders of the French and American Revolutions, for example, were Freemasons. George Washington, commander in Chief of the American army and the first President of the United States was a Mason. So was Lafayette, the French general prominent in both Revolutions. Benjamin Franklyn was often called the first great American apostle of Freemasonry. He was sent to Europe to seek the aid of France in the American struggle against the domination of England. It was in the French lodges that he gathered much of his support for this “enlightened” cause, which grew in its popularity after he personally initiated Voltaire into the influential “Lodge of the Nine Sisters”.

## **THE LEGACY OF THE ENLIGHTENMENT**

The Enlightenment came to an end in western Europe after the upheavals of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic era. In the short term, the French revolution had failed to produce the Utopian society that the philosophers of the Enlightenment had dreamed of. The rise of Nationalism undermined its cosmopolitan values; furthermore assumptions about the inherent goodness of human nature failed to convince, after the “Reign of Terror”.

In the longer term, the Enlightenment gave a world-wide legacy. Many aspects of modern democracy, legal justice and human rights can be traced back to this movement, which began in France. So can the western, secular mind set, however. It is hard to over-estimate the impact of these French philosophers who were among the first to portray a scientific world with no place for God. This view of the natural order, taught as undisputed fact in the majority of western schools, has prevented millions of people from discovering a personal relationship with God.

In much of the western world, though, the religious scepticism of the Enlightenment was lessened by the religious revivals of late 18th century. Methodism in England and Pietism in Germany was accompanied by the Great Awakening of America. These Protestant revivals combined to bring a balance to the intellectual doubts of the Enlightenment, and led many back to personal faith. But in France, the revivals never came. Her Reformed community had been brought near to extinction in the years before. Instead, the philosophy of doubt continued to put down its roots. Paradoxically, this scepticism was accompanied by a growth in spiritism and other occultic practises, as the French found unorthodox ways of satisfying their spiritual hunger.

Today scepticism is engrained in the French consciousness as deeply as laicity (secularism) is entrenched in their society.

# AN “ENLIGHTENED” SOCIETY?

## KEY FACTS

The movement of thought called “The Enlightenment” was formed in France, largely as a reaction to the tyranny of kings and the bigotry of the church.

The behaviour of many within the Catholic establishment in France caused a significant loss of prestige during these years. The manner in which the church led the religious persecution further undermined people’s confidence.

The Copernican revolution, that the earth was not the centre of the cosmos, radically altered people’s view of the world. It seemed to throw doubt on the authority of the Bible, the uniqueness of man and even the existence of God.

The Catholic Church strongly opposed the Copernican world-view. Those scientists who published findings in line with Copernicus were branded as heretics, a move which polarised the scientific and the Catholic communities.

French philosopher Rene Descartes, in seeking to devise a method for reaching the truth, taught the strategy of scepticism, namely that belief should be withheld from anything that is not entirely certain. His views have profoundly influenced the western world, and form an integral part of the modern French mind-set.

Freemasonry also owes its re-birth to the Enlightenment. The French man John Desaguliers, generally acknowledged as the “Father of new Masonry”, transformed the institution from a dying order of stone masons into the influential movement known around the world today.

In the short term, the French revolution failed to produce the Utopian society that the philosophers of the Enlightenment had dreamed of. In the longer term, the Enlightenment gave a world-wide legacy. Many aspects of modern democracy, legal justice and human rights can be traced back to this movement, which began in France.

The religious scepticism of the Enlightenment was balanced by the religious revivals of the late 18th century in Britain, Germany and America. In France the revivals never came. Instead, the philosophy of doubt continued to take root. Today scepticism is engrained in the French consciousness as deeply as laicity (secularism) is entrenched in society.

## POINTS FOR PRAYER

- 1) Pray for a “revolution” in the thinking of the Western World; that people wouldn’t see the Christian faith as irrational, or as a man-made religion, but as a genuine, supernatural revelation from God. Pray that they would build their mind-set on the authority of the word of God.
- 2) Pray for those who feel that science or human reason is the only basis for life and faith. Pray that they would discover the supernatural presence of God.
- 3) Pray for those who are disillusioned by what they have seen of the Church and its leaders. Pray that they might see beyond this, and come to know the God who will never let them down.

# FRANCE AND THE WORLD WARS

## A LOVE FOR THE NATIONS BRINGS NEW LIFE TO THE CHURCH

Two thousand years ago Jesus commissioned his disciples to take the gospel to every nation on earth. History tells us that there have been times when the church has focused on this task and made great advances for the kingdom. But it is also clear to see it has been hindered, side-tracked and resisted every step of the way. The enemy does not want the gospel to spread. He knows that “this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world a testimony to every nation, and then the end will come” (Matt. 24, 14).

Taking the gospel to unreached nations has always been one of the fiercest spiritual battles. No-where can this be seen more clearly than in the events characterising the turn of the 20th century, a time when it really looked as if the church was on the verge of actually completing the great commission.

During the century before (1800-1900), the Christian Church around the world had made staggering advances. The Methodist revivals established thousands of new churches and swept multitudes into the kingdom. At the same time, William Carey set the pattern for modern missions by going to India to “convert the heathen”. In the years that followed, thousands of missionaries set out for Africa, India, Latin America, China and other parts of Asia. The Church grew spectacularly around the world. The preaching of the gospel, often accompanied by the establishing of schools and hospitals, transformed the lives of thousands in many nations.

Around the turn of the 20th century, several significant moves of God combined to put world mission high on the church’s agenda. The Student Volunteer Movement, inspired by the “Cambridge Seven”, enlisted 100,000 young men and women in a commitment to missionary work among the unreached peoples of the world. Of these volunteers, recruited mainly from universities in England, Germany and America, only 20,000 actually made it to the mission field. But still, that represented a huge increase in the world wide mission force.

a few years later, in 1904, the Welsh Revival set that nation on fire, and quickly over-flowed into the countries around. Parts of France even experienced a powerful move of God at that time, as Welsh miners took the gospel to the coal-mining communities of Northern France. Then in 1906, the Pentecostal revival broke out from Azusa Street, Los Angeles, in America. Thousands were drawn from around the world to experience this new phenomenon. Returning home transformed, they became the pioneers of the new Pentecostal movement, which began to spread across the world with astonishing speed and power.

Those early years of the 20th century were marked by a great optimism in the church, as a renewal of spiritual life combined with a great passion to reach the nations. The confluence of these events led, in 1910, to the first ever **World Missionary Conference**, when over 1,000 delegates from around the world came together in Edinburgh. The conclusion of this conference was that complete global evangelisation was within their grasp. All that was needed was for the body of Christ to join hands across national and denominational divides and focus on this common goal. People and resources could be mobilised and sent to the ends of earth. Practical plans were drawn up to accomplish this ambitious project. All the conditions to achieve it seemed to be there.

But within a few years, World War I broke out (1914-18). The world's three greatest missionary sending nations, Germany, Britain and America, found themselves fighting and killing each other in a war that seemed to have no point. As men and resources from every corner of the globe were poured into France with the sole aim of destroying each other, thoughts of united world evangelism died.

## **NATIONALISM AND PRIDE LEADS TO THE DEATH OF MILLIONS**

The love for the nations which had been growing in the Church was mirrored by a rise of “nationalism” in the great powers. Years of colonial and economic rivalries gave way to a huge arms race, as England, Germany and France struggled to find a position of dominance. At the same time, however, the subject peoples in their multinational empires were becoming increasingly restless. In this climate of insecurity, the great powers struck alliances with the surrounding nations to try and protect their interests in case of hostile intentions by their rivals.

The death of one man in an obscure corner of an empire led to most of Europe, and eventually much of the world, being sucked into a conflict that would cost the lives of 8 million men. Military and political leaders displayed an arrogance that was stunning. Thousands of lives were sacrificed as they refused to give up their ambitions. Young men were hurled against walls of bombs, bullets and shells, in a futile attempt to win a few yards of mud, which would inevitably be lost in a counter-attack. It has been estimated that the number of civilian deaths attributable to the war was higher than the military casualties, put at around 13,000,000. These civilian deaths were largely caused by starvation, exposure, disease, military encounters and massacres.

The church in Europe, on the edge of a great revival, has never fully recovered. Many of the young men on both sides of the conflict had been touched by the various revivals sweeping Europe at that time. They could have become missionaries, evangelists, church leaders and intercessors; but they died in the trenches, leaving a gap in the church which has not been filled. Many who survived lost their faith, after witnessing the awful slaughter of the battlefields.

The conditions brought about by this “war to end all wars” led directly to the Second World War just 20 years later. This war spun out of Europe to engulf almost the whole world, and a further, staggering total of almost 60 million people lost their lives. In addition, countless millions, though physically unscathed, were emotionally scarred forever. a generation of women lived as widows, children grew up without their fathers, and families were torn apart. In the difficult years after the wars, many became cynical and bitter, feeling betrayed by their government and by God.

In 1944 France was liberated, but the country had been stripped of raw materials and food by the Germans. The transportation system was severely disrupted by air bombardment and sabotage, and 2.5 million French prisoners of war, conscripted workers, and deportees were still in German camps. France was devastated through these wars as millions fought and died on her soil. In both wars, many of her people were killed. Her land was over-run with armies and devastated (10 % of the land was rendered unusable after World War I). Still today lives are being lost, as farmers plough up unexploded bombs and shells, hidden beneath the fields of France & Belgium since the wars.

It is impossible to give a real statistical measurement of the human and material cost of the wars. The money cost to governments of just the Second World War was around \$1,000,000,000,000, but this figure cannot represent the human misery, suffering, dislocation of peoples and destruction of property that the war involved.

<b>THE HUMAN COST OF THE WORLD WARS</b>		
---	--	--

Country	Deaths in 1st War (military only)	Deaths in 2nd War (military & civilian)
Austria-Hungary	1,200,000	(see Germany)
Belgium	13,716	88,000
Brazil		1,000
British Empire/ Commonwealth	908,371	466,000
Bulgaria	87,500	20,000
China		(Estimate) *24,200,000
Czechoslovakia		225,000
Denmark		4,000
Finland		84,000
France	1,357,800	563,000
Germany	1,773,700	4,200,000
Greece	5,000	413,000
Hungary	(Austria-Hungary)	490,000
Italy	650,000	395,000
Japan	300	1,972,000
Monte Negro	3,000	
Netherlands		208,000
Norway		10,000
Philippines		118,000
Poland		5,800,000
Portugal	7,222	
Romania	335,706	500,000
Russia (USSR in 2nd war)	1,700,000	18,000,000
Serbia	45,000	
Turkey	325,000	
United States	116,516	298,000
Yugoslavia		1,505,000

## A FIRST WORLD WAR POEM; "IN FLANDERS FIELDS"

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

(John McRae)

## A PROPHETIC WORD; YOUNG PEOPLE REACHING EUROPE

**Anne Griffiths, May 2000**

Many intercessors have prayed for the battlefields of France - rightfully so. The Lord never forgets where blood has been shed. I saw the beautifully kept cemeteries of Northern France. Each white cross had poppies on it but then when I looked again, it seemed that there was an army on the move.

It seemed that a new army of young people was on the move, men and women. They were very serious about their task but at the same time, there was a great joy in them. They marched from across the sea into France where they met together and became an army. They marched into the cemeteries and took up the crosses. At first it looked rather shocking but each young person took up a white cross and put it across their own shoulder before marching on right across Europe.

I could not see any obvious leader in charge or any order having been given. No words even were being spoken, yet they all knew exactly what they were doing and why. It seemed as if there was a redemptive value in this act, and that the lives lost in the past were going to be honoured in a way no man could ever do, no matter how well the memory of the past is honoured. These lives were going to be of value in the future in battles not yet fought.

There was a beautiful sense of the Lord redeeming time and apparent waste of lives in the past. There was a joy and a solemnity about the scene which was quite remarkable. I did not see where the young people ended up. There were several destinations in Europe, and I knew they would get there and do more than those who had given their lives in the two great wars this century. The task would be more than completed.

# FRANCE AND THE WORLD WARS

## KEY FACTS

At the turn of the 20th Century the church in Europe, was on the edge of a great revival.

The First World War saw young men from nations who saw revival, killing one another.

The principal battlegrounds of the First World War were located in France.

8 million soldiers were killed in the First World War.

The number of civilian deaths attributable to the First World War was around 13,000,000, caused largely by starvation, exposure, disease, military encounters and massacres.

Following the First World War the revived church never fully recovered.

Of the 8 million Frenchmen mobilized in the First World War, 1.3 million were killed and almost 1 million crippled.

563,000 French people lost their lives in the Second World War

When France was liberated in 1944, 2.5 million French prisoners of war, conscripted workers, and deportees were still in German camps.

## POINTS FOR PRAYER

- 1) Pray that today's Church, again on the brink of reaching the world, would not be side tracked or hindered from fulfilling the great commission.
- 2) Pray for political peace; that the coming generations of Europe will not fight each other, but will fight together against the enemies of God's kingdom.
- 3) Pray against the things that hinder unity between different nations. Pray that the different nationalities would lay to rest historical animosity, bitterness and grievances, and would respect each other's culture and identity.
- 4) Pray that the leadership of our countries and our churches would not seek to manipulate others into fulfilling their own ambitions, but would serve, empower and release people to fulfil their own destinies in God.
- 5) As the money and man-power resources of the world were poured into these two wars, pray that there would be a great release of resources now poured into the task of reaching the lost, and building a better world.
- 6) Pray for a new wave of people to move out, not into the killing fields of the wars, but out onto the mission field and to the ends of the earth.

# THE CHURCH IN FRANCE TODAY

## THE STATE OF THE CHURCH IN FRANCE

The church in France is in a poor state. About 70% call themselves Catholic, although in reality, less than 10% practise regularly. Islam makes up about 7.7% of the population, with the Jewish population accounting for about 1.1%. When 20% of the remainder declare themselves “without any religious belief”, that gives an idea of the size of the Protestant community in France, totalling about 1.8% of the population.

The evangelical churches represent about 0.66% of the total population. They are a weak minority in a hostile environment. Often equated with cults, the local church has a tendency to be inward looking, its main goal being the struggle for survival. Churches are generally small (50 - 100 members on average) and spiritually weak. This often results in members feeling dissatisfied, and creates a climate where divisions are common. The different missionary movements which have worked in the country since the Second World War have equally contributed to this dispersion of human resources, each one wishing to open their own type of church. The small Protestant community is divided into over 130 different denominations. It seems very insignificant in a country with such a strong identity and developed culture.

Most large towns now have an evangelical church, although there remain 254 towns of over 10,000 people without any such witness. In total, of the 36,664 communities in France, approximately 34,500 have no resident evangelical witness. 90% of Cantons (an administrative grouping of 30,000 people) are also without a biblical witness. (“Not having a biblical witness” in this case is defined as having less than one Bible-based meeting per month, and includes Charismatic Catholic groupings. In some parts of France, notably the centre and south west, evangelical churches are few and far between. It is not uncommon for believers to travel over 80 km (50 miles) to find fellowship on a Sunday.

Over the last few years, echos of revival coming from around the world have contributed to the sense of dissatisfactions. Visiting preachers have created expectations which have proved impossible to fulfil, in a context where the heavens above France seem firmly closed, and the population just as hostile. Lack of maturity has led some to extremes, causing polarisation and division, with each group taking up its own position.

The strongest evangelical movement is that of the Pentecostals (Assemblies of God). Their membership tripled between 1965 and 1990, giving them over 620 churches. Their growth is due, in part, to systematic evangelisation, perseverance and simple, relevant methods. The African churches have also become a significant spiritual force in numerous urban conglomerations, where they reflect the vitality of the church in Africa. Their witness is less effective to white French people, however.

Generally in France, churches have very few financial resources. The French expect to receive, but are less ready to give. The pastors are generally not able to live from their ministry alone, and either must work or be supported by their wife. Many posts are empty, or are held by missionaries. This sometimes gives the church a foreign feel, and makes it less relevant to the French culture. Ministers are often under unhealthy pressure. Church members expect much from them, but are often unwilling to help. The struggle to make

progress in a hostile spiritual climate combines with the pressure of meeting conflicting demands from church members, and often proves too much.

The Catholic church has suffered a marked decline in its influence over recent years. The number of priests dropped from 41,000 in 1976 to 28,000 in 1995. Most priests are elderly, and with few younger replacements, each priest has to cover an increasing number of communities. The renewal movements of the 70's gave birth to numerous Charismatic Catholic prayer groups. Numbering over 300,000, their members have a sincere, personal relationship with the Lord and have a considerable witness in their communities. Relations between them and evangelical groups are complicated.

## **A PROPHETIC WORD; THE ROLE OF FOREIGNERS IN FRANCE**

**Thomas Sandell, April 1999**

It's the moment to begin to prepare the ground troops, who need to invade the continent of Europe with My love. Just like in the Second World War, France will be a key for the victory. Go to France, establish beacons of my love and my power. But do not leave unprepared. There is also need for more air raids (spiritual warfare) to defeat the enemy.

This is a call to mobilise the troops and to gather the nations. Just like on D-Day, the USA and Great Britain will each play a key role. Do not underestimate the least of my brethren among you. These nations, which for the most part have not been heard of in the Second World War, will be among some of the greatest heroes in the battle which is to come.

I am sending thousands of fighters in prayer from these nations to fight in the war. Africa, you will be one of the most experienced of my leaders and generals in intercession. From Latin America, I will send commanders of My love. I will use people from Asia to submerge you with their passion for My Son, Jesus.

This is not the moment to despise those whom your Heavenly Commander and Chief has sent to come to your help. Do not be offended when they act differently to you. As the French people embraced those who come to their help, the day of battle is approaching, be prepared. Make yourselves aware of My plans. I will save you from the wicked.

# THE CHURCH IN FRANCE TODAY

## KEY FACTS

70% of the population are Catholics and 1.77% Protestants, of which 0.65% are Evangelicals and 0.38% Pentecostal/ Charismatic

There are 2,350 Evangelical churches, representing over 50 denominations. The largest is the Assemblies of God, with 620 churches.

There is an estimated protestant church membership of 3-400,000, of which AOG 100,000. About half of the 170,000 Gypsies in France have become believers in the last 40 years.

400 new Evangelical churches have been started in the past 12 years. Over 1,000 new churches have been started since 1970.

There are 2,300 Protestant full-time pastors, evangelists and missionaries working in France, of which 410 are AOG.

Of the 36,664 communities in France, approximately 34,500 have no resident evangelical witness. In 1996 there were 254 towns of over 10,000 people which had no Evangelical church.

70% of the population call themselves Catholics, but about 10% practise regularly. Of these an estimated 300,000 are practising charismatics.

In 1976 there were 41,000 Roman Catholic priests in France. In 1995 there were only 28,000. Most priests are elderly, and as there are few young replacements, each priest has to cover an increasing number of communities.

## POINTS FOR PRAYER

- 1) Pray for the believers in France, often weak and marginalised. Pray that they would experience a new power in their lives and witness.
- 2) Pray for the protection of those leading France's churches, against discouragement, over-work and spiritual pressure.
- 3) Pray for a new generation of young leaders to be raised up, who would achieve a level of spiritual progress unknown to their predecessors.
- 4) Pray for the establishing of strong leadership teams, not common in France.
- 5) Pray for a move of true unity between the different evangelical denominations. Pray for an understanding between the Assemblies of God and charismatic churches, who rarely work together. Pray for wisdom in the relationships between evangelicals and the charismatic catholics.
- 6) Pray for a release of finance into the body of Christ in France; that French believers would be more generous givers, and that resources would come from overseas, where needed, to finance existing ministries or the establishing of new works.

# THE DESTINY OF FRANCE

## FRANCE HAS A GREAT DESTINY

“France wouldn't truly be France without it's inherent sense of greatness. All my life I've cultivated a certain idea of France, inspired as much by my heart as my head. Deep inside, I imagine France like the beautiful princess of the fairy tales or the virgin Madonna of the Fresco wall paintings, destined to fulfill a role of exceptional eminence. My instinct tells me that Providence has created her for outstanding successes or exemplary misfortunes.”

(Charles de Gaulle, President of France, 1958)

## A PROPHETIC WORD; “FRANCE HAS A GREAT CALLING”

### John Mulinde

“Some nations are particularly strategic to God. He has given them special gifts, and uses them to accomplish his purposes. These nations have an influence around the world. If they turn towards God, they are blessed, and a great part of the world is blessed through them. If they turn away from Him, they come under a curse, and cause many other countries to share in the same fate.

France is one of these strategic nations. You (French believers) have a great responsibility, for the future of France and of many nations. The destiny of millions of people in Africa, in Asia and America is linked to how France is going to live.”

## PRAYING INTO A NATION'S DESTINY

Every nation, like each person, has a destiny given to it by God. Paul, speaking to the Athenians (Acts 17, 26) said; “**From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live**”. We know that the scriptures are full of promises about the destiny of his chosen people, Israel. But many of those passages which talk about other nations show that they too have a specific calling to fulfil. They have their own unique role and a place within God's plan. After all, what is a nation but a collection of the people of one extended family? And it is God after whom every family on earth is named (Eph. 3, 15)!

We can also see, however, that in the case of Israel the very gift that should have made her special was the area to be perverted into a “mirror-image” reflection of the reality. Israel was given a “Princess Destiny”, but often she chose to follow a “Prostitute Destiny”.

In this section we have tried to paint a picture of the specific destiny of the nation of France. These points are not original. They are often quoted as being France's character-traits; her distinctive “gifts” waiting to be redeemed.

We would really encourage you to pray for the transformation of the character of France. Church history, as well as the scriptures, show us that such national change is possible. Let us learn from the example of Abraham, who sought to take hold of the promises of God (Rom. 4, 17 - 20), and be inspired to pray that this nation would enter into the special inheritance created for her by God.

## 1. THE DEFENDER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

In 496, Clovis, King of the Franks was converted to Christianity. Saint Rémi baptised him on Christmas day. Having spent the entire night before in prayer, the Saint received this prophecy. “*My son*”, he said to Clovis, his face shining with extra-ordinary brilliance, “*The kingdom of France is destined by God to defend the church of Christ, our Lord. This kingdom will be great among all the kingdoms of the earth. As long as it is faithful to its calling, it will be victorious. But if it proves unfaithful in this, it will see harsh punishment. This kingdom will last, in spite of everything, right up until the end of time*”.

It is remarkable that the kingdom of the Franks (France) has remained, while those of the other peoples making up ancient Gaul have disappeared. Gone are the empires of the Burgundians, Goths, Visigoths and Vandals. The fact that the kingdom of the Franks remains to this day gives credibility to this ancient prophetic word. Her calling also remains, unchanged.

In the early centuries of the Christian era, the church in Gaul was one of the strongest in the world. Birthed in “Book of Acts” - style signs and wonders, it had many great leaders, and played a significant role in establishing and defending the world-wide Church.

Irenaeus, the Church Father and Bishop of Lyon, played a significant role in defending the world-wide Church against heresy. He wrote the first major book of Christian doctrine, called “Against Heresies” (180 AD). This became the key factor in overcoming Gnosticism, a hugely popular heresy that all but overtook the fledgling Church. The development of the Creed and the office of bishop can also be traced to his work.

In the early years of Christianity in Britain, the young English Church asked the Bishops of Gaul for help in combatting the Pelagian Heresy, which was deeply embedded in their members. Germanus, a renowned Church statesman and miracle-worker, made two trips from France in 429 AD and 438 AD. Huge crowds were drawn to hear the outstanding wisdom of this great man of God. The British Church was greatly strengthened by his teaching, and large numbers of people were converted. Many notable miracles of healing took place, including some demon-possessed who had the evil spirits cast out of them.

Ironically, as the church became more established in French society, it lost its spiritual power, and became a political tool. Ambitious men with no real desire to follow the Lord became priests and bishops, drawn by the promise of a luxurious life-style and political power. When the true followers of Jesus denounced such practises, the church itself led the way in their persecution. Bishops led armies that slaughtered thousands of innocent civilians. Priests and Monks imprisoned and tortured peace-loving citizens for no other crime than trying to follow the teachings of Jesus. Instead of defending the cause of Christ, the church itself became its persecutor, as it engaged in a violent defence of its own authority and prestige. It is ironic that this country, called by God to be the defender of the Church of Christ was responsible for the martyrdoms of more believers than any other country in the world up until the 20th century.

## 2. A LIGHT TO THE NATIONS

France has a profound influence throughout the world. Charles de Gaulle was right when he said, “There is no corner of the earth where, at any given time, men do not look to us and ask what France has to say” (1958). History affords us many examples of how light or darkness spread from France to affect many other nations of the world.

In 371 AD Martin of Tours established one of the first centres of missionary training in the western world, with his huge monastic complex at Marmoutiers. Believers enrolled from all over Europe, trained in “apostolic ministry”, and then were sent out as church planters throughout Gaul. His disciples spear-headed missions to the Celts, Picts, Germanic peoples and even to remote parts of Scandinavia, providing a foundation for the establishment of a strong church in Europe. They give a powerful example of how the light in France can brighten many other nations.

At other times in Her history, however, France has had a remarkably negative influence on the world. The crusades and the Inquisition are two such examples. Though both of these were Europe-wide phenomena, they began in France, with the French playing the leading role.

Another example, responsible for bringing spiritual bondage to countless millions, is Spiritism (the communicating with spirits of the dead through Mediums, Seances, and Oui.ja boards). The phenomenon of modern-day spiritism began in America in 1848, with the playful attempts of two children to communicate with spirits of the dead. Their astonishment, when they succeeded, was quickly followed by their charging visitors who wished to communicate to dead relatives through them. Arousing huge controversy, the movement quickly spread to Europe. In 1855, a French academic, Professor Rivail, was convinced of the authenticity of these spirit messages, and set out to systematise them into a unified, religious system. He was responsible for spiritism’s transformation from a casual, after-dinner entertainment into a serious religion. He codified the Spiritist doctrines by asking the spirits specific questions, and then writing down their replies. “The Spirit’s Book”, thus published in 1857, has been likened to the Spiritists’ Bible, containing the spirits answers on subjects like God, the world, the nature of man, and life after death. Rivail wrote under the pen name “Allan Kardec”, after a spirit informed him that they had been friends in a previous incarnation, when Rivail had been a druid with the name “Allan Kardec”.

One frequent claim of the spirits was that they had arrived to fulfil the prophesy of the Bible concerning the advent of the Holy Spirit. It is interesting to note that the spiritist phenomenon occurred just a few decades prior to the world-wide outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Pentecostal revivals of the early 20th century.

Spiritism soared in popularity in France and spread widely throughout Europe as a results of Kardec’s efforts, leaving a legacy still in existence today. However it enjoyed its greatest success in the Philippines and Brazil, where Kardec’s teaching was seen as an eloquent articulation of many of their own deeply held, indigenous beliefs, suppressed by the imposition of the Catholic faith. Spiritism in Brazil is still known as “espíritismo Kardecismo” in honour of Allan Kardec. It has grown steadily in importance since its arrival from France, and today is recognised as an integral part of life for many of Brazil’s 170 million inhabitants, with participants from all social classes. In an opinion poll

conducted in 1971 by a leading Brazilian magazine, 68% of the population believed in Spiritism, 49% had visited a Spiritist centre, and 27% felt that spirits had influenced their lives.

A country with such a significant influence as France needs to take great care that it gives a good example. “If the light within you is darkness, how great will that darkness be !” (Matthew 6, 23)

### **3. INTELLECTUAL PASSION**

The French have a natural passion for education and intellectual knowledge. In the middle ages, the University of Paris, with the theological faculty at its heart, became the intellectual centre of the Christian world. Some of the greatest minds in France, and indeed the world, applied their talents to understanding the message of Christ. This intellectual ability was later reflected in the reformation. It was a French-man, John Calvin, who became the great thinker of the Protestant cause, and who was responsible for systematising the doctrines of the reformation.

Conversely, it was also the French who led the way in world-wide doubt. The French Enlightenment elevated human knowledge to a new level in which the “enlightened” now had no need of medieval superstitions, like God. Throwing away the concept of “faith”, they reasoned that the human intellect is sufficient to discover all truth. “To arrive at the truth”, they said, “You must doubt”! It is hard to over-state the influence of these French philosophers, who were among the first to portray a world without God. They became the architects of our modern, secular-humanist mind set, which has prevented millions of people in the western world from having a personal relationship with God.

For a short while, during the Revolution, the state enforced the de-Christianisation of France. The revolutionaries felt that the church had been responsible in part for the subservience of the people to the Old Regime. Such superstitions had no place in a society of reason. Churches were shut, their ornaments plundered to swell the coffers of the revolution. The culmination was a great public ceremony held on the 10th November 1793 in Notre Dame Cathedral, now re-named “the Temple of Reason”. a line of patriotic maidens, dressed in white, paraded reverently before a make-shift “Temple of Philosophy”, erected where the high altar had once stood. From this “temple”, at the climax of the ceremony, emerged a red-robed female figure, actually a local actress, representing Liberty.

Although such ceremonies failed to inspire popular devotion, the sentiments behind them, of the supremacy of human mind and the key role of reason, are deeply engrained in French consciousness. This is perpetuated in the schools of France today, where intellectual standards are among the highest in the world. Study of Philosophy is compulsory for all children, whilst study of the Christian faith is illegal, forbidden by the state in 1905.

### **4. A SENSITIVITY TO SPIRITUAL THINGS**

The French have an instinctive sensitivity to spiritual things. One could give many historical examples of this character trait, and show how it has been applied to both positive and unhealthy spiritual realities. Let us satisfy ourselves with just three.

**Nostradamus**, gained a reputation for the accuracy of his clairvoyance in the 16th century. He rose to such prominence that he was invited to join the court of Catherine de Medici during the spiritually turbulent times of the reformation. He became the father of the “Almanac”, and his prophesies are still widely read today.

During the **prophetic revival in the Cévennes** (c. 1688), thousands heard angelic voices singing in the night, or moanings in the sky accompanied by drums and trumpets, as when troops are given the order to charge. Many peasants experienced miraculous powers and also supernaturally began to prophecy. Young peasant children, able only to speak a common dialect, prophesied in perfect French !

At **Lourdes**, in 1858, a 14 year old girl had numerous visions of the Virgin Mary, who told her of the miraculous qualities of an underground stream there. Since then, Lourdes has become one of the world’s most popular religious sites, currently attracting 3 million pilgrims each year, of whom 50,000 are disabled or sick.

Even though French people would generally accept the secular philosophy of the Enlightenment, most would also be believers in super-natural spiritual phenomena. The philosophy of doubt has done nothing to lessened the spiritual hunger in their hearts. Deprived of the true source to satisfy that hunger, the people of France have turned to other spiritual sources for help. Over half of France’s population believe in faith healing, with one quarter consulting clairvoyants or astrologers. The 30,000 registered mediums and spiritual healers in the nation attract an estimated 10 million people per year. The \$41 billion paid for these consultations each year would be much better spent furthering the Lord’s Kingdom!

## **5. CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

Many would argue that French culture is the richest in the world. The 70 million tourists who visit France each year demonstrate this, making it the world’s most popular tourist destination. Throughout history, the French have held art and culture in the highest esteem, a fact that has helped France to become a world leader. For Perfumes, Fashion, Wines, Food, Films, Architecture, Painting and Literature, France is often the “Mecca”, and the yard-stick against which the others are compared.

This fact is another demonstration of the world-wide influence enjoyed by France. For many, these cultural expressions have themselves become the “object of adoration”. They are used by their human creators as a means of gaining personal praise, rather than of giving worship to our creative God.

## **6. THE DEFENDER OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

The French revolution, centred around the famous “Declaration of the Rights of Man”, proclaimed the doctrines of “Liberté, Egalité et Fraternité” (Liberty, Equality and Brother-hood). “All men” proclaimed the Declaration, “are born and remain free and equal in rights”. In a stroke the revolutionaries disbanded their society, built as it was on the privilege, hereditary superiority and feudal rights.

Around the world, the French revolution became the great symbol of the over-throwing of oppressive regimes. The first to benefit was the colony of Saint Dominique (Haiti). When Negro slavery was abolished in all French colonies in 1794 (only to be re-imposed by Napoleon in 1802), its black slaves rose up and demanded self-government. Inspired by the revolution, this former colony was transformed into the Republic of Haiti. In the following years, many Latin American countries would have their own revolutions and proclaim their independence from Spain. Each one had its own Declaration of Rights, Constitution and even adopted the French tricolour flag as its symbol.

Today that great tradition is continued by Médecins sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders), who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999 for their pioneering humanitarian work on several continents. Founded in 1971 by a small group of French doctors, the organisation has become a world-leader in humanitarian aid, operating in over 80 countries. Its guiding principle, that humanitarian action should not be tied to state interests, conditional aid, or military objectives, but to the dignity of people, has caused the organisation to speak out against government inactivity in many tragedies where the political will to get involved has been lacking.

It is ironic, however, that France, considered to be the champion of the rights of man, is felt by many believers to be unduly restrictive. Teaching of religion in State schools is banned. Furthermore, it is not uncommon for Evangelical churches and Christian organisations to be exhaustively investigated by the secret police. Marginalised as cults, their very existence can be threatened by the mountains of red tape, hostility of local officials and suspicion from the public.

## **7. LOVE AND RELATIONSHIPS**

People imagine France as “The Land of Love”, and Paris as “The romance capital of the world”. It is certainly true that the French are a passionate and expressive people. The search for romance and true love, however, is a contributing factor to France’s grievous social problems today. Men have an average of 11.3 sexual partners during their lifetime, women 3.4. This is a strong factor behind the soaring divorce rate, currently 38.6%. As a result, 20% of France’s children live with only one parent.

Many prophetic words have been given about a special anointing for worship that is to be a characteristic feature of a redeemed France. Expressing itself in passionate abandonment to God, the French church should be a model of love and intimate worship to the world.

## **A PROPHETIC WORD; THE ANOINTING OF JOHN**

**Rick Joyner, Switzerland, 1997**

“I believe a few years ago, the Lord showed me that the next great, watershed move of God was going to come through the French speaking people. The Lord has uniquely called different nations for different purposes, and has given them different gifts. Each one reflects His glory in a different way. Every one of the apostles that the Lord called was very different from the other. Every prophet in the scriptures was unique. They each had a different piece of the puzzle.

I stumbled upon a phrase one time in a church history book, then I kept seeing it over & over in other history books, that referred to the apostles Peter, Paul & John as the three pillars of the church. All of these three were very different from one another, but they all had a very significant part in laying the foundation of the church. I believe that all the apostles had a part, along with all the prophets, in laying the foundations of the church. But these three are repeatedly referred to as pillars of the church. They certainly seem to have the most significant part in laying the foundation of the church.

Then I started thinking about these three in relation to church history. I believe that we can see, using these three characters, a very unique pattern for interpreting church history. If we look at the nature of Peter, he was very impetuous and unstable. He was prone to breath-taking victories and heart-rending mistakes. If you look at church history, we see Peter probably having the greatest influence in the very beginning. For over 1000 years, the emphasis was on Peter and his ministry. Those in leadership in the church claimed to be seated on the seat of Peter. The church of that period seemed very much to have the nature of Peter. Extra-ordinary victories and advances for the gospel were followed by some extraordinary mistakes. But the Lord used that church as much as he could.

Then we have the beginning of the reformation. The reformation began with a rediscovery of the epistles of Paul; a rediscovery of the epistle to the Romans. Since then, for over 500 years, most of the emphasis of the church has been the epistles of Paul. We have definitely needed that emphasis again in the church.

But John had the last word. I believe that we are going to come to a final phase of church history where we see the emphasis of John becoming the main emphasis of the church. It doesn't mean that we forget Peter and Paul. But I believe we are going to see ascending again to the fore-front John's message, that we should love the Lord and love one another.

In a sense you could see the three of them representing the way, the truth and the life. We need to understand the way. We need an absolute devotion to truth. But if we don't know Jesus as our Life, we don't really know the way or the truth either. We need all three together, but I believe that a great emphasis is coming upon the last of these (seeing Jesus as our Life).

It seems very fitting that when the Lord called John, he was mending nets. Just as we see the gospel of John tying the other gospels together, and the epistles of John tying the new testament together, the book of Revelation that he wrote ties the entire scriptures together and finishes them off. I believe that his ministry and his message is just going to tie everything together, so that the harvest, which is the end of the age, can finally be gathered.

John was the one who leaned his head on the Lord's breast. He could hear the heart-beat of God leaning on His breast. It is one thing to have the mind of Christ, but we must also have His heart. It's not a matter of just doing the right things. If we have His heart, we will do them for the right reasons. He requires truth in the innermost being. It is not just by believing in our minds that we find righteousness, but by believing in our heart.

When I first went to France, I tried to study France as much as I could. It looked to me like there had been a resistance to moves of God throughout the French history, or a resistance to new moves of God, resistance to things that were different or unique. And yet the Lord

showed me that the French were going to lead in the last day move of God. I started to understand right away how this could happen. When you go to France, it seems that the whole culture is based around relationship. They sit at meals for hours and hours. The wine flows. But everything is based around relationships. And I began to understand how the message of John alone, based on relationships - loving the Lord and loving each other, - could reach the French people. I could also see that when some of the reformations truths are preached there, the French people would say, "So what?" because they didn't see lives that reflected that truth".

# THE DESTINY OF FRANCE

## KEY FACTS

The defender of the Church of Christ.

A light to the nations.

Intellectual passion.

A sensitivity to spiritual things.

Culture and the arts.

The defender of human rights.

## POINTS FOR PRAYER

For each point in the “Destiny of France” section, pray that;

- 1) France would become the nation that God intends her to be.
- 2) The French would have the right goals and aspirations. (Our goals and aspirations often shape what we become). Pray that their focus would be on God and the values of His kingdom.
- 3) Where the enemy has counterfeited God’s intention, this would be exposed. Pray that people would turn away from the shadow to the reality.



# FORTY DAYS TO CHANGE A NATION

## FORTY DAYS OF PRAYER AND FASTING

The first weeks of the new millennium saw an unprecedented move of prayer in France. Nearly 600 churches and prayer groups, from many different denominations, registering their involvement in forty days of prayer and fasting for their nation.

In the year 2001, there will be another forty days of prayer and fasting, from 7th March to 15th April, the traditional season of Lent. It is anticipated that a much larger number of French churches and prayer groups will take part. At the same time, hundreds of thousands of believers, from over 30 different nations, will be praying for France in their own countries.

## A FORTY DAY PRAYER CALENDER

This prayer calender is designed to be used as a guide, for those who find this way of praying helpful. It is not meant to restrict your prayers, or to tie you into a legalistic frame-work.

To use our suggested prayer calender, read through the prescribed portion, and pray for all the issues raised in it.

<b>Wednesday 7th March</b>	“France and the Jews”
<b>Thursday 8th March</b>	“France and the Jews”
<b>Friday 9th March</b>	“The People” and “The Economy”
<b>Saturday 10th March</b>	“Religious Persecutions”
<b>Sunday 11th March</b>	“The Church in France today”
<b>Monday 12th March</b>	“Religious Persecutions”
<b>Tuesday 13th March</b>	“Key dates in France’s History”, 900 BC - 1778 AD
<b>Wednesday 14th March</b>	“France and the Nations”
<b>Thursday 15th March</b>	“France and the Nations”
<b>Friday 16th March</b>	“The Land” and “The Religion”
<b>Saturday 17th March</b>	“The destiny of France”, points 1 & 2
<b>Sunday 18th March</b>	“The Church in France today”
<b>Monday 19th March</b>	“An Enlightened Society” ?
<b>Tuesday 20th March</b>	“An Enlightened Society” ?
<b>Wednesday 21st March</b>	“The destiny of France”, points 3 - 5

<b>Thursday 22nd March</b>	“Key dates in France’s History”, 1789 - 2000
<b>Friday 23rd March</b>	“France and the World Wars”
<b>Saturday 24th March</b>	“France and the World Wars”
<b>Sunday 25th March</b>	“The Church in France today”
<b>Monday 26th March</b>	“The destiny of France”, points 6 & 7
<b>Tuesday 27th March</b>	“France and the Jews”
<b>Wednesday 28th March</b>	“France and the Jews”
<b>Thursday 29th March</b>	“The People” and “The Economy”
<b>Friday 30th March</b>	“Religious Persecutions”
<b>Saturday 31st march</b>	“Religious Persecutions”
<b>Sunday 1st April</b>	“The Church in France today”
<b>Monday 2nd April</b>	“Key dates in France’s History”, 900 BC - 1778 AD
<b>Tuesday 3rd April</b>	“France and the Nations”
<b>Wednesday 4th April</b>	“France and the Nations”
<b>Thursday 5th April</b>	“The Land” and “The Religion”
<b>Friday 6th April</b>	“The destiny of France”, points 1 & 2
<b>Saturday 7th April</b>	“An Enlightened Society?”
<b>Sunday 8th April</b>	“The Church in France today”
<b>Monday 9th April</b>	“An Enlightened Society” ?
<b>Tuesday 10th April</b>	“The destiny of France”, points 3 - 5
<b>Wednesday 11th April</b>	“Key dates in France’s History”, 1789 - 2000
<b>Thursday 12th April</b>	“France and the World Wars”
<b>Friday 13th April</b>	“France and the World Wars”
<b>Saturday 14th April</b>	“The destiny of France”, points 6 & 7
<b>Sunday 15th April</b>	“The Church in France today”

# SOURCES AND FURTHER READING

Operation World, Patrick Johnstone, OM Publishing

France ...Forgotten Mission Field, Frank Orna-Ornstein, European Missionary Fellowship, 1971.

France - Inside and Out, by Claude Dubois, European Christian Mission,

“The Ecclesiastical History of the English People”, The Venerable Bede, (A.D. 731)

Francement, Philippe Joret, 2000

Foxe’s book of Martyrs, James Foxe, 1596

The Encyclopedia Britannica, 1999 Edition

The New Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia, 1994 Edition

Time Magazine June 12th 2000

Institut National d’Études Démographiques, [www.ined.fr](http://www.ined.fr)

The Crusades, David Nicolle, PhD, Osprey Publishing, Oxford University, 1988

The French Revolution, George Rudé, Phoenix publishing, 1988

Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques, [www.insee.fr](http://www.insee.fr)

The Oxford History of the French Revolution, William Doyle, Clarendon Press, 1989

Histoire des Protestants de France, Charles Bost, Publisher La Cause

A History of Modern France Vol 2 1799-1871, A Cobban, Pelican, 1961

A History of Modern France Vol 3 1871-1962, A Cobban, Pelican, 1965

The Age of Revolution, E.J.Hobsbawm, Abacus 1973

The Age of Capital 1848-1875, E.J.Hobsbawm, Abacus, 1977

The Age of Empire 1875-1914, E.J.Hobsbawm, Cardinal, 1987

The French Revolution, C Hibbert, Penguin, 1980

# FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information can be found on the Internet Web Site [www.france2001.org](http://www.france2001.org) including;

More Prophetic Words for France  
Opportunities to come and pray in France  
Contact addresses in many countries for information on regional prayer initiatives for France  
Church Twinning

## **Please contact us to order;**

- \* Further copies of this prayer guide, available in English or French
- \* An introductory leaflet calling people to pray for France for the forty days, available in English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, German, Dutch, Icelandic, Africaans, Danish, Faroese, Korean, Polish, Norwegian, or African version (French)

**France 2001  
International Office**  
4 Hengate  
Beverley  
East Yorkshire  
HU17 8BN  
England  
E-mail: [lafrance2001@aol.com](mailto:lafrance2001@aol.com)  
Tel/Fax: 00 44 1482 862579

**France 2001  
French Office**  
35 Rue du Collège  
59100 Roubaix  
France  
E-mail: [france2001@free.fr](mailto:france2001@free.fr)  
Tel/Fax: 03 20 73 81 10

**This book is the product of several people's work**

First edition 19/9/2000