

Reaching Carcassonne 2017, from the new church building

It was a great joy to take part, once again, in the annual week of evangelism at Carcassonne, in partnership with *La Voix des Prophètes* literature ministry, United Beach missions (UBM) and with the support of *La Maison de La Bible* (a Christian publisher). We thank the Lord for the gospel that is going out in this region, and for the support of brothers and sisters in France and elsewhere who accompany us in their prayers and through material support.

After a year of administration and building work, we finally had the privilege of welcoming a team to our own church building in Berriac, Carcassonne. Twenty-five workers took part in the mission this year, and all were able to stay on site. With an average age of 30, these team members from France, England, Germany and Belgium, gave their time and energy to invite local people to two evangelistic evenings planned for the end of the week, and made the most of each opportunity to announce the Good News. Whether through door-to-door work, in the road or at the market, many people were left with an invitation, a gospel, a tract or a Bible. Some of these people, eager to know more, invited the team members in to talk over a cup of coffee, or left their contact details in order to continue the conversation at another time. For the first time this year, the team used a questionnaire about 'chance,' which often led to good discussions and the distribution of literature. May God cause these grains of truth to germinate and bear fruit!

We were disappointed that the 7000 church leaflets, ordered specially for the week of evangelism, did not arrive on the planned date, but came a week late when the mission was nearly finished! They will be used over the coming months. However, we were able to introduce ourselves and our beliefs to many people using some cards detailing the new church address. Still more encouraging, the two evangelistic evenings which took place in the church building, left us in no doubt that God used the welcoming atmosphere to warm people to the message of the gospel. On the first of these evenings we showed the film, 'God is not dead.' This was aimed at the English-speaking community as the French version of the film is not yet available! It was encouraging to see several friends and neighbours of church members (though we had hoped that more would come). There were some good discussions about faith afterwards. The second evangelistic evening involved a barbeque in the church courtyard. Again, several friends of church members attended, but also a few locals, including two ladies who live very near the church building. Through gospel songs, sung and introduced by the mission team, the message of the gospel was announced, and gave rise to opportunities to witness further in conversations that took place afterwards.

The week ended with an encouraging day of evangelism, but the task is by no means finished. We need prayer that the Enemy will not come to steal away the good seed that was sown, and that the church will be able to continue the important work of following up the people who were interested. May God cause the church to be increasingly known in Carcassonne and the surrounding area, and may he continue to draw souls to himself for the glory of his name.

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