

RICK, JANETTE & PAUL BROWN

Agapé France



Janette comes from the Midlands. She trained to be a teacher, and taught in two Anglican Church schools in the early 80's. She came to Christ as a teenager through the wife of the pastor of her local church. I come from the San Francisco Bay area, and got a degree in French civilization from the University of California, Berkeley. I became a Christian at 15, through a high school friend who wanted to share his faith with others. I joined Agapé upon graduation and came to France in 1981. Janette and I met at a Bible study conference, and were married in 1983. Our son Paul, born here in France, now 23, is a mechanical engineer working West of Paris.

WHY FRANCE ?

You may wonder why France, a European country, needs missionaries. It is usually thought of as a Christian country. The reality is that France has been secularizing



for 200 years. At most, 10% of the population attends church. Of France's 38,000 cities and towns, 36,000 have no permanent evangelical witness. Most people we meet have no real understanding of what it means to know God in a personal way. Many French are seeking spiritual answers, but in the wrong place: in 1985 15 million people (over 1/4 the population) consulted a medium at least once. France is now considered a mission field not only by evangelicals, but even by the Catholic church. It was this great spiritual need,

and the fact that I already spoke French that convinced me where God was leading me. I was touched by the Apostle Paul's example in 1 Corinthians 9:22 : *I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.* My burden was and still is to help fulfil the Great Commission in France as a cultural "insider".

Agapé France, the French ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ, has been in existence since 1973. The movement has had French leadership for over 30 years.

THE MINISTRIES OF AGAPE FRANCE

France has over 2 million students, so it is no surprise that Agapé's main ministry is on the campus. Our oldest and largest ministry is in **Lyon**, France's second largest city. We also have a ministry in **Rennes** (Brittany), **Nantes**, **Montpellier**, and in **Toulouse**. The main thrust of these ministries is to share Christ with students and build them up in their new found faith and equip them to reach out to their fellow students.

We also have a ministry to students in **Paris** which, in addition to French students, has more international students than any other one city in the world many from countries where missionaries cannot go.

We do work beyond the university campus as well. We have a *Christian Training* ministry which makes itself available to churches to give training in evangelism and disciple-making. Many hundreds of French Christians have learned how to share their faith through this ministry. In recent years, *Athletes in Action* has been developing in France, with local sports clubs all over the country. Most of these clubs include both committed young Christians and youths who are still searching, where they learn about ethics and attitudes and see them lived out. Our clubs also play against other local teams and take the opportunity to share Christ.

specific requests. In all of these activities, couples are challenged by themes such as God's Purposes for marriage and are encouraged to work through important issues such as Communication. Agapé Famille is also a strategic outreach to non-believers, with a non-threatening approach based on a major issue of day-to-day life.



We also have other responsibilities. Janette heads up the finance department, as well as human resources. She oversees such important things as seeing that the French staff receive their salaries and that the ministry keeps to budget. It is her goal to serve the field staff, keeping them freed up and unhindered in their ministries. I also have a hand in training our new French staff as they join our ministry, equipping them for the beginning phases with Agapé.

YOU CAN HELP

Our work in France is not something we can do alone. It's a team effort. We need **ministry partners** to join with us in the French ministry and help in these ways :

Prayer : We need people to support us in prayer, which is essential for our work. We send a newsletter to keep our ministry partners informed about what God is doing in France, and what our prayer needs are. We'd be happy to send it to you.

Financial support : We are entirely funded by gifts from individuals and churches. Some give on a monthly basis, which goes to pay our salary and regular ministry costs. Others give special gifts which help cover special expenses.

Would you consider becoming a ministry partner through prayer and financial support ?

Thank you for your interest in our lives and work.

Rick & Janette

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To support our ministry financially, go to
<http://give.agape.org.uk/richardbrown>



We have several different ministry responsibilities. The main aspect of our ministry is *Agapé Famille*, the French branch of FamilyLife International, a growing couples' ministry. Aspects of this work include *A Weekend to Remember*, and *A Day Together*, our couples conferences as well small groups on marriage and parenting issues. We also organise evangelistic events such as a *Valentine's Day* dinner and are invited by churches to lead workshops tailor-made to their