

The *other* big event of the summer



Dear Friends,

The other big event of the summer after the wedding was of course the youth conference *Bouge ta France* in Le Havre in mid-July. This was a rare event bringing together 1200 Christian youth from all over France for training in evangelism and we were privileged to be in on it.

After delivering evangelistic materials, we stayed on to work as volunteers. We helped serve meals (about 300 in the space of an hour) and joined the security team outside the stadium. The authorities saw such a large religious gathering as high-risk, not to mention the fact that the majority of the participants were under 18, so their security was top priority. A friend commented that in our yellow security jackets we looked jaundiced!



The young people were trained using evangelistic tools some of which our ministry had provided. They were also challenged on several occasions to surrender their lives to Christ and to follow Him wholeheartedly. During one message we saw one young man sobbing – obviously deeply touched by God. The whole group went out to share their faith all over Normandy including a "flash mob" of 100 young people dancing and singing, drama and fun-fair type events on the beach, and many other ways to reach out and share Christ.

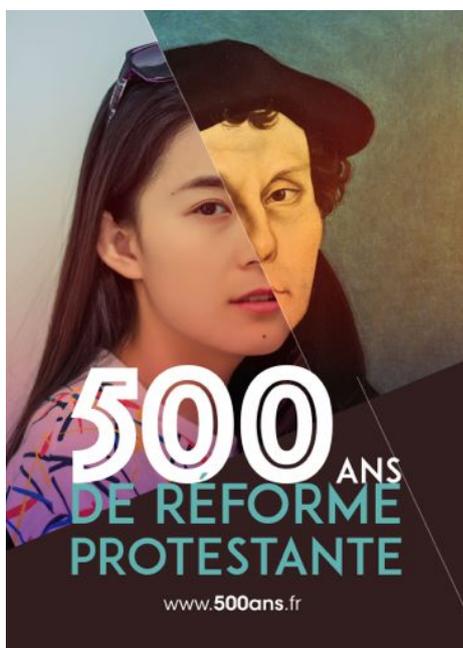


On the 14th of July, France's independence day, over 8000 people gathered at the Le Havre stadium to pray for France. In the afternoon perhaps another 2000 joined us to hear the well-know evangelist Nick Vujicic, born with no legs or arms, tell his incredible story. On the way in, teams gave out 5000 bags with a Gospel of John and a Jesus DVD. Since we still had Jesus DVDs left, we handed them out as people left the stadium, in case they hadn't gotten one in the first place or for them to give away to others. One pastor from

the south-west was thrilled to get a box-full as his church gives lots of Jesus DVDs away in their outreaches. We were so privileged to be part of Bouge ta France – large numbers of people heard the Gospel during the event, and we're convinced that many thousands more will hear it in the coming months.

New staff conference

At the beginning of the academic year we bring together all of our new staff for a time of orientation, training and welcoming into our staff family. A few months ago I gave our ministry partner development training to Luke, Sarah and Laurence, and they all joined us for the conference. It's such an encouragement to invest in the lives of these young missionaries as they start their ministries in Toulouse, Rennes and beyond.



500th anniversary

October 2017 marks 500 years since Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, touching off the Reformation and resulting in the founding of the Protestant church. France has a rich Protestant history including people like Jean Calvin. Our ministry has partnered in putting together an evangelistic exhibition, which is being shown in churches all over France, and is a real opportunity for evangelism. We were invited to show the exhibition during a colloquium on *Protestantism, convictions and commitments* at the Paris city hall, 22nd and 23rd September. The event was inaugurated by the mayor of Paris, and President Macron attended and gave a speech.

For Prayer

- * Please pray for our involvement in another event to commemorate the 500th anniversary, *Protestants en fête* (Protestants celebrating), a gathering of all the Protestants of France which only takes place every 4 years. It will happen in Strasbourg over the last weekend of October. Agapé has been invited to set up a stand in the "Village of brotherhood" in the city's main square and we'll be part of the team.
- * Pray for our next couples' seminar, scheduled for 11th November, that we would have a good group and that their lives would be touched and changed.

With thanks for your prayers and support,

Rick & Janette