

# Life in Paris

Occasionally we're asked "What's life in Paris like since the terrorist attacks?". You may remember we don't actually live within the city limits of Paris itself. We live in the suburbs, some 40km/25mi out to the east, but still very much in the commuter belt. There is still heavy security in the city and throughout the country. We've noticed a reaction a couple of times : an increased openness about the need for spiritual answers following a terrorist attack. Shortly afterwards, busy-ness and its accompanying indifference to spiritual things take hold again, and things "go back to normal"... for a time.

## The different expressions of Agapé in Paris

meet a few times a year to share news, encouraging testimonies and to see how we can best work together. In September we got together in the centre of Paris with staff and volunteers working with students, musicians, artists, young professionals, business people, sports people, all with one goal : to bring the light of Christ to the "City of Lights". One of our staff working with students shared how someone had received Christ with her that week.



Janette is a member of the **Agapé France Board, as treasurer of the association**, which meets twice a year in Paris to discuss important issues and the direction of the ministry. The topic at one of the recent gatherings was a web platform to encourage, coach and help Christians to be salt and light in the workplace. In any but quite large firms, Christians frequently find themselves alone, with no other brothers or sisters in Christ to join in reaching out to office colleagues in appropriate ways let alone get a bit of encouragement or pray together.

## G20

Two or three times a year, all the team leaders of Agapé France meet together. We've affectionately called the group the "G20", not because we have delusions of grandeur but because there are about 20 of us... As guest speaker at our October meeting, we had a colleague who leads our ministry in one of the more difficult areas of the world. We were greatly challenged by what he had to say about facing the

impossible. We did an exercise where he asked us to *speak the truth* about one of our main difficulties in the ministry. It was powerful to see how God wants to work in our lives and ministries and how easily we get sucked into believing lies like "it's just too difficult here" or "it can never happen". We often forget how



big God is and how He can transform any situation. I was very privileged to translate (one of the most fun things I get asked to do) as our friend prefers to speak in English. We all came away challenged, blessed, and with some important action points!

### **Couples' seminar in Brittany**

In September we held a couples' seminar in one of the furthest-flung places we've been to : the north Brittany coast. We took advantage of being near our ministry centre in Rennes to ask Francis and Marie-Carmen (National director of Agapé France and his wife) to join us as speakers. We had a great group, including a pastor and his wife who came from 120 km/75 miles further west. Here are some



comments on what people got out of the seminar : *"A new start, new (good) methods."* *"We'll see with time but it was interesting to have a day without the children to talk about our marriage."* *"Thank you so much for your precious investment. Bravo for the day. With our thanks."*

### **For Prayer**

- \* Pray for the public premier of our new couples' seminar *Vive la Différence*, 26<sup>th</sup> November, for a good group and real impact in the couples' lives.
- \* Marie-Carmen, who leads our Women's ministry has organised a conference for women 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> November and Janette and several colleagues will be going. Please pray that God will bless this conference and touch lives.

*Rick & Janette*