

COUNTRY PRAYER FOCUS

MAKING "...RIVERS IN THE DESERT."
Isaiah 43:19

momentum > europe

March 2017

Prayer Focus: France (especially Riviera)



Location: Between Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea
Capital City: Paris
Government: Republic
Population: 64,850,000 (UN Estimates for 2017)
Major People Groups: 92% French, 4% Arab/North African, 2% German
Religion: 76% Catholic, 24% other Christian, 6% Muslim, 1% Jewish
Language: French

Spiritual Climate: In the words of a missionary in Paris, he notes that while people in France are spiritually hungry, they are not finding satisfaction in traditional religion since they have been estranged from it for over 200 years! France is notorious for its secularism, but increasingly that is colored by a Catholic outlook as well as strong New Age and Universalist beliefs. Add to that the significantly large percentage of Jews and Muslims and you have a country that is becoming very spiritually diverse.

So, while the social, political and economic issues of France have brought greater spiritual hunger, there is also increasing confusion as the people of France wrestle with "why" and "how" spiritual interest is making a comeback in their country. Apart from the natural revelation of the Alps and the Mediterranean Sea, there is almost no witness for Christ.

From our ministry directors in France:

Francis Didier, the National Team Leader for Agape France (Cru), offered the following quote recently as a good insight into the real life challenges faced as a result of increasing terrorism: *"Islamic extremism needs to be fought by prayer, love and by the power of our Christian testimony. If terrorists want to put France on her knees... they will only succeed to put Christian believers on their knees, praying for France!"* It seems Christians in France are more and more ready to stand strong for Christ and to serve those in grief and in need.

Roger Randall, Director of Momentum Europe's Riviera Partnerships: Sara and I moved to this part of France as we believed that reaching Europeans of means and influence was critical to the advancement of the Gospel in Europe. This relatively small area has the highest concentration of Ultra High Net-Worth Individuals (Financial Times). Monaco has the highest GDP/person of any country in the world.

Even though so many here have so much, there is a huge need for the peace and joy only found in Jesus. On the Riviera, there is no Christian bookstore, no Christian television or radio, and only 5 known Bible studies. The second largest protestant church has 92 members. Yet God has blessed our events with strong attendance and continues to open doors to the very top leaders in government and business.

Prayer Requests

- * Pray for the Body of Christ in France: that God will reveal His will and guide His people in what He has prepared as good deeds for this specific time!
- * Ask God to strengthen the Body as they present a strong witness for Christ in the midst of Islamic extremism, spiritual confusion, and materialism.
- * Pray for the Wisdom Café, a group of 20-40 women who gather for a bi-monthly Bible discussion group. These women are from 11 different countries and some have come to faith but many are still in process.
- * There will be a retreat held later this year on the topic of the Spirituality of Jesus for 20 men and women searching for an authentic faith. Pray for hearts to open.
- * Also pray for a major outreach dinner being held at the most prestigious golf club in the area.
- * Please pray for the following couples (names withheld due to privacy) described by their positions:
 - former CEO of a global chemical company
 - former director of engineering for one of the world's largest petroleum companies
 - health care entrepreneur
 - private equity investors
 - Prince and Princess of Italian Principality

(a planning time with those from the Riviera, Dresden and the U.S.)

