DECATUR BIBLE CHAPEL MISSIONS NEWSLETTER

Sharing the Gospel
"Run with It"

SEPTEMBER 2025

DBC MISSIONS COMMITTEE

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Latest News from Paul Howland – September 18th, 2025

"La Paix Avec Dieu", 1247 Chemin du Louage, 03230 Thiel s/Acolin – FRANCE

Dear Prayer Partners,

Our God is Sovereign, so **He makes the rules** and blesses those who obey, but punishes those who do not. It's obvious sovereignty **does not mean** His will is always done ! Just look at the mess in our world today. God revealed His will very clearly, "The Lord... is not willing that any should perish, but that **all** should come to repentance." [2 Peter 3v9] But they don't, because He gave us all free will right from the start. [Genesis 2v17 & 3v6] Most people perish, as Jesus said, "Broad is the way that leads to destruction." [Mathew 7v13] PTL that He is also Almighty and can "**Over come evil with good**" as He tells us to do. [Romans 12v21] He overcomes evil, **turning all things for the good** of those who love Him and answer His call to salvation. [Romans 8v28] That's NOT sovereignty but unlimited power. Why do I bring up this question ? Because the Lord has led me back to Paris where my sweetheart and I began our mission in 1973. The number of Christian assemblies was growing but has since decreased ! The number who attend weekly is at a record low. Conversions are rare and baptisms even more. Christians are not leading others to the Lord as they once did. I was told, "You're wasting your time, you can't lead anyone to the Lord. It's up to God's sovereign will." So, many sit on the side lines and **watch** Paris become "sin city". I can't save anyone, but the Lord sure can ! Will you join me in prayer for repentance and the miracle of personal salvation ? The little car is mine (I'm handicapped now) and the canal St Martin is also only one block from my tiny apartment in Paris. My first week in Paris, we did street evangelism near "Les Gobelins" a Christian assembly 8 minutes from my place by Métro. Only one sister came on Saturday to help me, but I had a wonderful time when I sat down twice to talk to two different men about Christ. The sister was excited to see results so quickly. After my message on Sunday, the whole little assembly ate together and we shared our story.

The next Sunday was in Moulins-sur-Allier, 300 km south of Paris. I'll be taking trains now to travel ! We examined John 1v36 to see how John sent people to Jesus for salvation. That same day I drove to Annecy, near Geneva, Switzerland, for the week long annual Christian Workers' Conference. It was a blessing to catch up with fellow servants of the Lord from all over Europe after missing it the 3 years. That's me on the far right ;-) Our speaker, just to my right, Phil Parsons took us on a wonderful trip with Joshua...

By the next Sunday, my little Nissan Pixo got me to Paris and the Christian assembly Épinettes in northern Paris. It was good to reconnect and look ahead for a weekend of evangelism in the future. The next two Sundays were at Les Gobelins and Moulins again. This coming Sunday should be in Charolles, Soâne-et-Loire, where a dear brother retired from practicing medicine to pioneer a work in a small city. Pray for François Château and his wife as it's hard work in the country as in the city. I want to encourage them. So, what do I do in my "spare time" ? As Paul Harvey would say, "That's the rest of the story... on page two !"

It was really hot in Phoenix this July. Perhaps that's why I didn't get news to you sooner. My brain melts at 90 F ! So, before I flew back to France it was a challenge to work in my shop on the 1932 Dodge. Between men's Bible studies both locally and on line, I got the old motor out and a new one put together with a new manual transmission. It's easy to take the old one out but hard to make parts to mount the new one in place. So, it's "hanging around", waiting for me to come back. Please pray for cooler weather as my plane ticket to Phoenix is for September 19th. In the Lord's will I can travel again "Across America with Christ" to help little assemblies lead the lost to Christ. Doing car shows and just plain rolling into town is a great way for me to talk about my Savior who kept me from the big junk yard of Hell. My workshop has been a good place to talk to men about Him.

Meanwhile we keep our TEAMS meetings weekly to get good Bible books in French electronic e-Sword format for free distribution. We had a big set-back in January when we discovered someone had edited and changed Wm MacDonald's commentary without making note of their changes. So, we have had to go back to the first edition and translate it into French before putting it into e-Sword format. I hold the written copyright for the French edition and we want to be faithful and accurate translators. That's not easy today when so many people call a paraphrase a translation. It is not.

Hospitality is very biblical, so it's been a mutual blessing to have people in my home. Before I sell the old homestead in France, it was good to have Warren & Loretta in France for a few days. My new tiny apartment in Paris is too small, but a restaurant meal in Paris with a dear Korean couple was a blessing for all of us as we shared stories of what the Lord has done. I was blessed by Eric Jones' invitation to lunch after the meeting at the Christian assembly in north Paris, Épinettes. We had a lot of mutual memories to share from years of service.

Last, but not least, this season in my life is special. My new doctor in Paris asked me twice if I was living with someone. I said that I'm doing fine on my own with Jesus. He looked over his glasses and grimaced. It was a great open door to share the Gospel and he took my card for my website. The bus, the Métro and even waiting for transportation has been a wonderful way to talk to people about the Lord. The parts store lady is a Christian and almost hugged me for talking to her about Jesus ! So, I never know who is open. A man asked me for food, so I took him to a corner store in my new neighborhood. He is Muslim but kissed my card with Jesus' name on it. But the enemy is everywhere, trying to get people away from Christ. Just look at this big sign on a Paris Catholic church... not only is Mary holding the bread, the cup and the shepherd's staff, but they have her usurping the Word of God "Come unto Me" ! Pray for me as I go up against a huge organization that wants people to come to them and not to the Lord Jesus Christ. There is salvation in no one but Him.

Thank you once again for your prayers and financial support for the Lord's work He has called me to do.

in Christ, *Paul Howland*

Book Distribution

Weekly Praise & Prayer

The crisis in Central Asia has intensified. We regret our inability to share the details with you because of the extreme sensitivity of what is happening, but could we please ask you to pray even more often and in earnest? People's lives and livelihoods are at stake.

In addition to that, a recent earthquake took many lives. Two villages were decimated, and the primary language that had been spoken by the inhabitants of those villages didn't have any Scripture available yet. Pray that other villages like theirs won't have to wait longer to hear of God's great love for them. Absalom and his brothers have traveled to some hard-hit areas to provide assistance and compassion.

Earnestly,
David & Cathy Miller

Weekly Praise & Prayer

Our local colleague named Absalom sent the following news about his recent work:

I went to Unity Village and Dream Village on various days in order to do storytelling and to show videos of the translated Psalms to people there. They were very happy to see these Psalms videos, and they said that it is very interesting for us that you created such completely new things for us in our very own language. In fact, people encouraged me quite a lot by saying, "Well done that you are working in our language, for you are rescuing our language from being lost." They prayed for me a lot and were pleased with my work.

Continue to pray for Absalom to have favor in his Owala-speaking communities.

One of you faithful prayer supporters replied to our newsletter about Abdullah and Firishta to say,
"I am so excited! I just messed around a bit, highlighted those prayer requests, cut and pasted them, and then printed a copy of them for myself! So I have those prayer requests saved and will keep on praying for them!"

I thought I would share this with you as an idea that you also could do, saving those requests to use regularly during your prayer times.

Peter Rumbe, Sindo Bay Young People - Retreat

Moses Omondi, Northern Kenya, Dasanach People
Kenya Missions by Echoes Of Mercy

Echoes of Mercy is planning to adopt more orphans from the Dasanach group in northern Kenya. They are listening to the gospel and receiving Christ in their young live against all odds of the Muslim influence. We praise God for the boldness and courage of Bishop Moses to do missions in his own homeland of Kenya.