

... When Will France?, continued from p. 3

will remember that they stood to commit this next year of their lives to pursue training in ministry, that they might be better used in the furtherance of the kingdom of God. They will remember how God spoke to them there.

I sincerely hope that what I experienced in Clermont-Ferrand was just a beginning—just a taste of the energy, commitment and sacrifice that we will witness in the months and years to come. I hope that France will yield 100 committed young Adventists where now there is but one.

And that we would hear of a new breed of fresh Blaise Pascals, for God only knows how much France needs them.

God, please set France ablaze with your Spirit and your Son.

¹Pensées, Blaise Pascal

FEBRUARY 2012

Events Schedule

- **February 4**
Springfield SDA Church, OR
James Rafferty • (541)746-8263
- **February 10-25**
Icap School, Poptun, Guatemala
James Rafferty • (509)842-3952; info@H20forlife.org
- **February 17-18**
Great Lakes Union GYC, Andrews University, MI
Ty Gibson • (269)473-8239
- **March 10**
Cottage Grove SDA Church, OR
James Rafferty • (541)942-5213
- **March 16-30**
Wolverhampton, England
James Rafferty • +44 (115)960-6312
- **March 19-22**
Longburn Adventist College, New Zealand
David Asscherick • www.lac.school.nz
- **March 19-24**
Waikato Regional Churches, New Zealand
Ty Gibson • +64 7 8270084
- **March 25**
Myrtle Creek SDA Church, OR
Risè Rafferty • (541)430-2048
- **March 30-31**
CRIS Talks, MIT, Cambridge, MA
Jeffrey Rosario • foley@creativemanna.com
- **March 30–April 1**
Oregon Conference Prayer Retreat
Grove Christian Camp, Cottage Grove, OR
Ty Gibson • (541)942-5213
- **April 5-6**
ACTS for Christ, Vancouver, BC
Jeffrey Rosario • info@actsforchrist.org

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Our purpose is to help proclaim the gospel
of our Lord Jesus Christ through the spoken and published word.*

MISSION UPDATE

The Newsletter of Light Bearers Ministry / ARISE



To Use or Be Used?

By David Asscherick

Sometimes we hear people say things like, “I need more of the Holy Spirit in my life” or “I want the fullness of the Spirit.” There is nothing direly wrong with this language, and yet it may evince a subtle danger in our thinking about the Holy Spirit. Sentiments like those above communicate, at some level, that we use the Spirit. If the Spirit were, as some suppose, merely a force, a power or some kind of divine energy, then perhaps this language and the underlying sentiments would be more acceptable, but this is not at all the case.

The Spirit is “the Third Person of the Godhead” (*Desire of Ages*, p. 671). This is manifestly clear language. Here is the statement in its larger context:

“The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail. The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this satanic

captivity was amazing. Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world’s Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church.”

The Holy Spirit is more than a divine power, He is a divine Person! And not only this, but He is a member of the Godhead! Now the picture is coming clear. Since the Holy Spirit is fully God (Acts 5:3-4) and possesses personhood, just as Jesus and the Father do (Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14), our language and thoughts about the Spirit should communicate

clearly that it is Him that uses and employs us, not the other way around.

Thoughts are wrapped in language, therefore we need to labor to be precise, careful and intentional with our words. This is especially the case, of course, when it comes to speaking about God. Language possesses necessary and inherent limitations when it comes to things eternal and divine. God cannot be contained in or confined by human language. And yet, language can get us heading in the right direction. Why else would God employ it at all?

In the New Year, as I’ve been studying the Holy Spirit’s person and work, I’m finding myself saying, “the Holy Spirit needs more of me” and “the Spirit needs my fullness.” Since the Holy Spirit is not a power, but a person, He is not to be used by me; I am to be used by Him.

Please, Spirit, use me to accomplish Your purposes on Earth. Amen.

Glimpses of God

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CONSIDER THIS . . .

The Holy Spirit has a personality, else He could not bear witness to our spirits and with our spirits that we are the children of God. He must also be a divine person, else He could not search out the secrets which lie hidden in the mind of God. "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God."

Ellen G. White,
Evangelism, p. 617

We need to realize that the Holy Spirit, who is as much a person as God is a person, is walking through these grounds.

Ellen G. White,
Manuscript Releases, Vol. 7, No. 487

The prince of the power of evil can only be held in check by the power of God in the third person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit.

Ellen G. White,
Special Testimonies for Ministers and Workers, Series A, No. 10, p. 37

We are to co-operate with the three highest powers in heaven, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, and these powers will work through us, making us workers together with God.

Ellen G. White,
Special Testimonies for Ministers and Workers, Series B, No. 7, p. 51. (1905)

The Comforter that Christ promised to send after He ascended to heaven, is the Spirit in all the fullness of the Godhead, making manifest the power of divine grace to all who receive and believe in Christ as a personal Saviour. There are three living persons of the heavenly trio; in the name of these three great powers—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—those who receive Christ by living faith are baptized, and these powers will co-operate with the obedient subjects of heaven in their efforts to live the new life in Christ.

Ellen G. White,
Evangelism, p. 615

WHEN WILL FRANCE BLAISE US AGAIN?

REPORT FROM FRANCE'S YOUTH REVIVAL— GÉNÉRATION DE JEUNES POUR CHRIST



By
Jeffrey Rosario

“In order that the work may go forward in all its branches, God calls for youthful vigor, zeal and courage. He has chosen the youth to aid in the advancement of His cause. To plan with clear mind and execute with courageous hand demands fresh, uncrippled energies. . . that through the exercise of their powers, through keen thought and vigorous action, they may bring glory to Him and salvation to their fellow-men” (*Gospel Workers*, p. 67).

I've had an unshakable burden for Europe for a decade now. I've just never been able to accept the sad and ironic reality that the birthplace of the Protestant Reformation is now so tragically spiritually dormant. The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Europe is not exempt from the desperate need for revival. The church in France, I would say, is high on the “needy” list.

Thankfully, God is privy to this need. Though few in number, there is a new wave of on fire Adventist young people there, and they are beginning to make some noise. A group of nine young adults recently organized a late October convocation. I was invited to participate and present at the gathering. The location they were providentially led to was Clermont-Ferrand in central France. This is highly significant. When I learned of the location, it occurred to me that this town's legacy hinted at what God was up to.

Clermont-Ferrand is the birthplace of the French mathematician and physicist Blaise Pascal, who was born nearly four hundred years ago. He is widely considered one of the great figures in Western intellectual history. He invented the calculating machine while still a teenager, the barometer, the hydraulic press, the syringe and is also credited with inventing the wristwatch. But he was so much more than an inventor. He was a brilliant and creative mathematician, and is regarded as the founder of probability and statistic theory. His many contributions have

made a significant impact in the world.

But, all this aside, the most impressive thing about him was that he was a young man who was on fire for the Gospel. Having had a dramatic encounter with God (what he afterward would always refer to as his “night of fire”), he was able to use his influence to bear testimony to the world. He wrote that, “There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ.”¹ His life and legacy has set many hearts ablaze for God and has inspired Christian thinkers for four centuries. And this little, seemingly unimportant town in central France was his stomping grounds.

What a fitting place to have held the Génération de Jeunes pour Christ (Generation of Youth for Christ) convention, a gathering called to inspire young people in and around France to fulfill their personal and unique calling in Christian life and ministry.

The chosen theme was Walking in His Footsteps. The conference

was attended by up to 180 people representing nearly ten countries including: Switzerland, The Netherlands, Norway, Germany, Portugal and, of course, France.

The attendees were encouraged to participate in an outreach effort in the town center to invite people to a Health Expo. Their efforts brought over 200 people to the program! (Confession: this was much more than I expected.) Along with the Health Expo, there was an evangelistic presentation and a concert that were both geared toward the community. All this resulted in some 75 contacts that will be followed up in the months to come, 75! That's at least 65 more than I would've predicted. (Thank you Jesus for the rebuke and the inspiration!)

After it was all over, Tiphaine, a 23 year-old student, and one of the key leaders, said, “This has been the most Spirit-filled and powerfully reviving Youth Congress I have been to yet.”

And she's not alone on that.

Those young people will remember this conference. They will remember the closing day when people were led to their knees, weeping and pleading with God for revival. They