

### **FRANCE - The Image**

- 59 Million people
- The world's 5th largest economy
- The world's most popular tourist destination
- 70 million tourists visit France each year
- One of the most varied and beautiful countries in Europe
- Known all over the world for its excellent food and wines
- Paris - "the romance capital of the world"
- People full of "Joie de Vivre"

### **FRANCE - The Reality**

- 4 Million alcoholics
- 1 in 4 live alone
- 10 % take medication for depression
- 40,000 young people attempt suicide every year
- 20 % of children live with only 1 parent
- 10 % are unemployed
- 13.7% immigrants, mainly from former colonies

### **FRANCE - The Church**

- Only 0.63% are evangelicals (400,000 believers).
- There are more registered mediums and spiritual healers than doctors or priests.
- Although most large towns have an evangelical church, they are often small and weak. The average size is about 50 people.
- Many smaller towns and most villages remain untouched. Of the 38,000 communities, 36,000 have no resident evangelical witness.
- Few of France's 4.5 million Muslims would ever have heard the gospel. There are 11 Muslims for

every evangelical believer, although in practice, most are quite nominal.

- There is a great lack of full-time, salaried ministries in France. Many leaders are under great stress as they balance the demands of their ministry and their careers.

### **FRANCE - Points for Prayer**

- For those in France who have never heard the gospel; that there would be a profound move of conversion among men, women, youth and children.
- For the strengthening of the French Churches; that the believers may become fully equipped for works of ministry.
- For unity among the Christians, often deeply divided.
- For the forgiveness of past sins and the removal of spiritual hindrances.
- That the evil forces at work in France would be bound in Jesus' name.
- That France may enter into the destiny God has for it.
- That a living, vibrant Church would be raised up in every community.

*FRANCE 2001 is an international movement of prayer for France, working with "Intercession France" and a broad range of evangelical churches and missionary organisations.*

# **FRANCE 2001**

## **Redeeming The Dreams**

**Join with Hundreds of Thousands  
from many nations  
to pray and fast  
for France**

**40 days of prayer  
7th March - 15th April 2001**

The first week of the new millennium saw an unprecedented move of prayer in France, as over 500 churches, from many different denominations, embarked on 40 days of prayer and fasting for their nation. This prayer will be repeated in 2001, with even more churches taking part.

We are calling for believers from many nations to stand with their French brothers and sisters in prayer for God to bring a significant change to the nation of France.

## A Glorious History

In the first centuries of the Christian era, the church in Gaul was one of the strongest in the world. Birthed in “Book of Acts” - style signs and wonders, it had many great leaders. Irenaeus, the church father and bishop of Lyon, played a significant role in defending the world-wide church against heresy. Martin of Tours established one of the first centres of missionary training in the western world. In the following years France sent out many missionaries to evangelise the surrounding nations. Germanus, a renowned healing evangelist, went to Britain. Patrick, who evangelised the Irish, was trained there.

At the height of the Reformation, 20-50% of France was protestant, depending on the region. The Bible was translated into French for the first time, and many new churches and schools were established. Calvin, the great French reformer, had a profound influence on Christian thought in Europe and beyond.

The principles behind the French Revolution, of equality, liberty, and fraternity, culminated in the formation of the Declaration of the Rights of Man in 1789, and have had a profound influence on the formation of modern democracy.

“There is no corner of the earth where, at any given time, men do not look to us and ask what France has to say” (Charles de Gaulle)

## A Great Destiny

Visit our Web-site - [www.france2001.org](http://www.france2001.org)

Contact us at: France 2001, 4 Hengate, Beverley, HU17 8BN England

## Bitter Roots, Shattered Dreams

**10 million young men died in France during the First World War.** This was preceded by one of the greatest outpourings of the Spirit in history. In 1904 the Welsh revival swept thousands into God’s kingdom. Azusa Street, USA in 1906, saw the Pentecostal movement rise up with many thousands saved in America, Europe and beyond. This led to the first World Missionary Conference, in Edinburgh, 1910, where 1000 delegates, representing many countries, agreed that global evangelisation was achievable if the church united and focused on this goal. In the following decade, the war brought converts from these great revivals onto opposing sides of the battle, as the world’s three greatest missionary sending nations, Germany, Great Britain and the USA, fought and killed each other on French soil.

**Believers in France have been martyred and persecuted for 1800 years.** Before the 20th Century there had been more martyrs in France than in any other country of the World, an estimated half a million believers died for their faith. In addition a further half a million were forced to flee into surrounding lands for safety or were exiled. The very existence of the Evangelical Church in France has been threatened through continual suppression and persecution.

## Waiting To

**Oppression of the Jewish people runs through the history of France.** The religious fervour of the Crusades (which started in France) caused Christians in France and beyond to become intolerant of all other religions. This gave birth to what was called “The First Holocaust”, as thousands of French Jews were forced into exile. Three hundred years later Jewish history in France virtually ended until the late 18th century, as King Charles VI of France expelled all Jews from his kingdom. In the Second World War, the French government at Vichy started to deport the Jews even before the Nazis requested them to do so. France’s colonial rule has left a legacy of bitterness. The unequal trade and white domination has led to resentment among the indigenous people. France also played a significant role in the slave trade, making much profit from their transportation.

**France has found inadequate, human solutions to its spiritual problems.** French philosophers like Voltaire, Descartes, and Sartre became the fathers of Rationalistic philosophy. Their ideas steered the western, secular-humanistic world view to the belief that the answers to the world’s problems can be found through human reason, thus denying the need for religion or faith. Many have sought to fill the void thus created, not by reason, but by fulfilling human emotions and desires.

## Be Redeemed

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