



# LA LUMIÈRE

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Serving with Campus Crusade  
for Christ in Toulouse France

That (Jesus) was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

John 1:9

Bonjour!

This newsletter is going out by the post office so that we can send a picture of our family. We hope you enjoy it!

## Un SEPTEMBER 11

That Tuesday was horrifying to watch. It is difficult to be so far from home as our nation copes with such loss. Our prayers go out to those who were affected. Our team needs to be sensitive to the perception that people now have of us as Americans, so we are closely watching our nation's response. We hope it opens up new opportunities to talk with French students about the frailty of life. Another way it affected our team is we weren't able to go to the briefing in Frankfurt. The Western European leadership decided that travel might be too dangerous.

## Deux THE EXPLOSION

On September 21st the city of Toulouse also suffered a tragedy. A fertilizer plant exploded, seriously injuring or killing nearly 50 people. The percussion of the blast was the equivalent of an earthquake with a magnitude of 3.2. Glass shattered all over the city as we heard the explosion, causing panic at the thought of a terrorist attack. The Mirail

campus, where we were taking language classes, was hit very hard. Three buildings were severely damaged and glass shattered everywhere. Much of our team was on campus when it happened, yet by the grace of God nobody was hurt. This damage has delayed the beginning of school and consequently our acceptance into the first semester of courses.



A room on campus

## Trois GETTING OUR FEET WET

We've been going to different campuses to strike up conversations with French students. For example, Darrin Skur and I met a third year law student named Louis in the courtyard of a university. We talked with Louis for an hour and a half; time enough for him to roll two cigarettes. Louis is a very bright student with great insight into his culture. He was amazed at our interest in learning as we talked about student life, his pastimes, thoughts on the terrorist attacks in America, and how he believes history and religion have shaped the way French people think. Our time with Louis was very educational. We're hoping that conversations like these will help us understand the soil we're sowing and focus on the most fertile fields possible.

## Quatre THE TEAM

We'd like to continue to introduce you to other members of our team. Stephanie Hilbrand graduated from the University of Wisconsin—La Crosse in August 2000. She worked at the YMCA as an aquatic director before she came to France. Stephanie is picking up the language quickly and does well at striking up conversations with students. Yet being around people quickly drains her energy. If you remember Stephanie in your prayers, she's relying on the Lord for the energy she needs to interact with students. In addition, we have been encouraged by her endurance. The first month in her apartment Stephanie had no hot



Stephanie and Silas

water due to troubles getting the gas hooked up.

Cinq

#### FRENCH LIFE

Living in France certainly has its challenges. It would seem a small task to connect the gas in Stephanie's apartment, but it has somehow been eluded for a month in spite of all efforts. The phone books in our apartment for example dated back to 1996. To get new books we had to go to the local telephone company and ask for them. Usually we had to wait in line for 10-20 minutes, only to be told that they were out. Just yesterday we finally caught them with phone books in stock. "Do you have a phone bill?" we were asked. Oops, didn't think to bring one. After showing sufficient identity and providing our telephone number they were finally convinced that we were customers and gave us phone books.

Please pray...

- For our team's enrollment in school
- For the timely repair of the Mirail campus
- For us to balance being students, parents, spouses, and missionaries
- That God will give Stephanie the energy to learn French and initiate conversations with students

The Lord's blessings to you!

Dan, May and Silas

P.S. If you haven't received our previous newsletters via email please contact us at [danandmay@hotmail.com](mailto:danandmay@hotmail.com).