

February 8, 2008

Spiritual Conversations with French Students

Laura (pictured here) and I started a conversation with the group of students sitting at the table next to us in the cafeteria. One of the gals spoke pretty good English, so it was easy to talk to her. We showed her the pictures with Soularium (I mentioned that in my last letter.) and asked her to pick the picture that best described her life now. She picked a fun, happy picture. When we asked her what picture she thought described God, she picked a picture of color and beauty. When we asked her which picture best described where she is with God, she chose a picture that looked like church doors chained and locked. She then went on to explain that she doesn't believe in God.



Halle, Jacqueline, and I had one student tell us she couldn't believe in God after her aunt died a premature death.



As I was in the middle of talking about Jesus the gal on the right interrupted me telling me she disagreed with me. She wasn't being rude or anything because this is how the French have discussions. She told us she wanted to be free and that if God were part of her life she couldn't be. I found myself particularly sad by this because it is Christ Himself who gives us freedom. I was frustrated that I couldn't go any further to uncover why she thought that because of our language constraints.

“At least we have one belief in common,” a senior in Nantes said. “We believe in one God.” This was after a brief conversation about God. Natalie, pictured with me here, and I were initiating conversations with students. We just introduced ourselves telling them we are Americans working in France for the year with Agape (Campus Crusade for Christ in Europe) and are talking to people about God. Then we ask if they would talk to us for a few minutes.



It will likely take more than conversations to see French students come to Christ. They need to see God’s love in our lives and relationships; they need to see that He is real to us and that He makes a difference in our lives.

Throughout the country, teams do various activities to help provide for those kind of opportunities. It can be as simple as the American teams preparing a Thanksgiving Dinner and inviting everyone they know. (Of course, it can be a challenge cooking a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner for 60 people! ☺) In Toulouse there is a bi-monthly Thé-O-Show in a café downtown. People sit around tables and talk. Each time there is a different theme or topic. This has been a huge hit.

As you know one of the things I’ve been doing is hosting an English Club. I’ve had different people come different weeks, but I am not sure if I should continue. It’s good that we try different things. Some ideas work better than others at building relationships and trust with students.

Please pray for me and the others serving in France to have creative ideas, courage, and boldness. And please pray for God to draw students to Himself.

Thanks for helping to bring students to Jesus through your prayers and financial support. I could not do it without you.

Because God is compassionate,

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