

Quebec, One of the Largest Mission Fields in the World

Last fall, friends and collaborators had the excellent idea of making a video containing “man-on-the-street” interviews with the people of Quebec concerning their attitudes towards the Gospel. Not surprisingly, the answers given were downright sad and discouraging. Of the more than 80 interviewees, only one was an evangelical Christian; 90 % did not believe in God, heaven, or hell; and the majority did not know what an evangelical church was. We know that the people of Quebec have a history of their own ... and that they have a lot of baggage when it comes to the church.

Donald Gingras, a counselor and the author of the book Quebec, 400 Years of History, makes a “case analysis” of Quebec’s unique situation, describing Quebec as an orphan growing up in a blended family. Abandoned long ago by her mother country, Quebec has tried hard to survive and to manage the best she can. Aided by the Catholic priests who came as missionaries from France to evangelize the Indians, the people of Quebec gradually succeeded in recovering and rebuilding themselves, but not without suffering profound consequences. Today, Quebec is made up of broken people who react unfavorably to most authority. A large proportion of her people rebel against all forms of religion and/or religious authority. Moreover, we see now a great gulf of diverse beliefs widening between the generations. Older Quebecers are usually Catholic in name only - relatively few still practice their religion. Their children believe, but do not practice it at all. If they attend church, it is out of tradition (Christmas and Easter). The children of this subsequent generation believe much more that the theory of evolution, as it is taught in the schools, is truth or else they turn to Buddhism and other new age practices.

Finally, the children of these children, today’s young, do not even know who Jesus Christ is. Why do I share this? Because the situation is alarming. My people are dying. Only a meager 0.6 % of Quebecers claim to be evangelical Christians. I am convinced that if we do not fully know the history and evolution of the people with whom we strive to share the Gospel, it will be impossible for us to understand where they are coming from, where the real needs lie, and how it is possible to address those needs. It is true that the message does not change: The Lord remains the same yesterday, today and will be the same tomorrow. Man’s sinfulness also does not change. However, the ways and means by which we spread the Gospel message can be positively and beneficially adapted while never diluting the message. We hope that in adapting our methods, doors and hearts will finally open and the people of Quebec will finally, hear the message of the Gospel in a very personal way – just as everyone who personally encountered Jesus did. – Part of an article written by Valérie Sélesse, Aujourd’hui l’espoir

People ask how we are making out with the license for the radio station in the City of Lachute, Quebec, and for the 100 repeaters across the province. They told me when we started this project that we would face spiritual warfare. Well we have. In all the radio stations we have worked on, I have never gone through three engineers in fifteen months of the project. The first one resigned at the end of December to work elsewhere. Late January the next engineer assigned to us, a man of 43, suddenly died. We had to start all over again with the third engineer in March, Rene Stebenne, and he is now well into the project with LSTelcom.

We just recently had a meeting with LSTelcom and their staff, **Pastor Toe-Blake Roy in Lachute of BLF Canada**, and Eric Perron, Executive Director of Aujourd’hui l’Espoir where in Quebec City we will do the radio program. Tim Whitehead, Executive Director of Galcom and Allan McGuirl recently met last Monday, and we are, by God’s grace, pushing ahead to get our application in to the CRTC.

Please be much in prayer as we trust our God to overcome the attacks of the enemy.

Let's claim Quebec for Christ.