

Alain spoke to President Touadéra and to the Minister of the Interior. “I asked forgiveness on behalf of the four Europeans in attendance and made it clear that I had not been sent in any official capacity, but would explain what I had done upon my return to France.”

Alain and President Touadéra shared a long hug amid shouts of joy and thunderous applause, followed by a lengthy time of prayer as they joined hands. Alain later learned that the event had been broadcast on national radio and that people were talking about it in the streets. (It has since been reported on several French language websites. You can find these reports by searching *Alain Stamp Centrafrique*.) **The brothers told him this was the first time a Frenchman had ever asked for forgiveness.** Several young people also approached Alain, asking forgiveness for their attitudes toward the French.

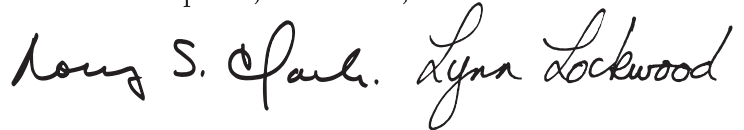
### Thank you from CAR

Because of the generosity of our donors, Alain distributed 1,500 BLF books, including a leader pack gratefully received

by President Touadéra. The day after the forum, Alain held a mentoring seminar for sixty leaders and each was given a BLF resource to reinforce what they had learned. **As BLF USA partners with BLF Éditions and Alain, we get to join God in what he is doing through them. Thank you for helping equip African leaders as they persevere in such difficult conditions. Your partnership is essential.**

We hope that you will continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in CAR. They are spreading the hope of the gospel across that country using tools you helped provide. And pray especially for President Touadéra!

In the darkest places, God shines,

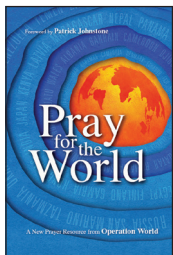


*Rory Clark, Executive Director, BLF USA*

*Lynn Lockwood, President of the Board, BLF USA*

## ▶ Special Projects

### Encourage the praying church



IMAGINE THE IMPACT this updated, simplified “Reader’s Digest” edition of *Operation World* could have in the hands of the praying church across the Francophone world—including places like Central African Republic. The project is ready for

takeoff. \$20,000 will get this important resource translated, published, and ready for the first 1,500 pray-ers to use!

God is at work. *Pray for the World* can help the Francophone church understand even better how to pray for their country, their continent, and the rest of the world. Please consider helping get us this powerful, practical resource to believers from all walks of life—who knows, maybe even to a president? **Thank you for praying for this project!**

### Bless leaders who will bless others



Making high quality resources available to key leaders during events like evangelists’ forums has huge potential to change lives and enhance ministries. It’s also a gift that keeps on giving. The generosity and prayers of partners like you make this possible.

**We hope to bless over 300 mission leaders from all over French-speaking Africa in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire this April.** Large shipments need to be sent months in advance to ensure they arrive in time. We must ship these books by February 2017.



**President Touadéra looks over his pack of BLF books.**



**Bibles and Literature in French**  
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# blf newsflash

a publication of BLF USA

*He began with a startling admission . . .*

Dear Friend of BLF,

**O**ur God is at work in the Francophone world—and we get to join him in what he’s doing! Did you know that “your partnership in the gospel” with BLF blesses thousands of French speakers each year? *Merci for being an integral part of our team.*

In our latest *Impressions* newsletter, we shared that Alain Stamp, BLF Éditions’ board president, was in Africa for another forum to encourage French-speaking evangelists. *But it would prove to be so much more!*

## “Come and help us”

When Alain visited Central African Republic (CAR) in October, it was in response to a “Macedonian call.” A year and a half earlier, during an evangelists’ forum in Cameroon, Alain met Anatole Banga, vice president of CAR’s Evangelical Alliance. Banga told Alain of the trials the church there was experiencing because of the civil war. **Churches destroyed. Pastors murdered. Women and girls raped. Houses burned to the ground.**

Deeply shocked, Alain asked what he could do. The request was simple: “Come and hold a forum. Help us regain our confidence in ministry.” Alain agreed, but suggested the forum be preceded by two days of healing and restoration.

## Shaken to the core

Fast forward to October 2016. Upon arriving in CAR, Alain met with a senior civil servant, who is a pastor and a graduate of two prestigious French universities. The pastor gave Alain a historical overview of France’s involvement in his country. It was an ugly history lesson. Full of exploitation,

## DID YOU KNOW?



**The CAR was one of the world’s most evangelized nations, but the upheavals there and in nearby Chad and Sudan mean the progress in some regions has been reversed . . . The country has potential for massive church growth.** (Source: *Pray for the World*, 2015)

greed, and self-interest. Of diamonds, uranium, oil and arms. It explained the deep resentment many there feel toward the French. *And it shook Alain to the core.*

## A startling admission

The day of the pre-forum seminar finally arrived. Alain had the first session, entitled “Facing Suffering and Trials.” Given what he’d learned, how could he ever gain a hearing? He asked the Lord for guidance, and the Lord showed him what to do.

Standing before 350 Christian leaders, Alain began with a startling admission:

*“I believe I have two strikes against me: I am white and I am French.”*

Dozens of heads nodded silently in agreement.

Reporting on the experience, Alain wrote: “I sought their forgiveness for the unacceptable, shocking acts my country has committed in CAR, expressing my sorrow and compassion. Through a pastor speaking in Sango I asked whether the Christians present could forgive me.”

Immediately, the room erupted with joy. A door to a deep working of the Spirit of God was now open!

## Are you willing?

During that week, Séléka (Muslim) rebels killed dozens of people in northern CAR. The head of CAR’s Evangelical Alliance said that the country was again on the brink of civil war, and that Christians had a moderating role to play. He announced he would invite Faustin-Archange Touadéra, CAR’s President—and a committed Christian—to attend the closing ceremony of the forum. He “asked me if I was willing once again to ask for forgiveness, this time before the President of the Republic.”



**Alain and President Touadéra join hands in prayer.**