

IMPRESSIONS

Spring/Summer 2022

Special issue for BLF Canada's 21st Anniversary

A publication of Synergie Francophone
Formerly BLF USA

Hope for
Canada!
Hope for
Québec!
Hope for
Haiti!

What is Québec?

- A beautiful tourist destination ☐
- A mission field ☐
- A sender of missionaries ☐
- All of the above ☒



Synergie
FRANCOPHONE

Together... planting, watering, growing fruitfulness

Do Not Despise Small Beginnings

Gideon, the least important member of the weakest family in his tribe, could not believe what God was asking him to do: wipe out the fearsome hordes of Midianite invaders that were ransacking Israel's land. So, he asked for a sign, and God gave one. As the Midianites massed with their allies, ready to strike, Gideon put out a call for fighters to join him from other tribes... and asked God for another sign, and then a third. With all these fighters and three confirmations from God, the fearful Gideon finally thought he was ready. At this point, God had a surprise for Gideon to stretch his faith even more. "I want to hand Midian over to you," said the Lord, "but you have too many men for me to do that." God did not want Israel to think that their numbers and prowess in battle were the reasons for victory. After 22,000 men left, God said there were still too many. When Gideon's forces were reduced to just 300, God was ready to deliver Israel, and what a deliverance it was!

As we read Scripture, we find that God brings great outcomes from humanly impossible circumstances. How

many other battles were won by prayer and the Spirit of God? Joshua only prevailed against the Amalekites when three old men on a mountain kept on praying. Jericho's walls fell not through force but through obedience to an "impossible" plan. How many great leaders were born to barren women? Isaac was born to Sarah; Jacob and

Esau to Rebecca; Joseph to Rachel; the prophet Samuel to Hannah; Samson to the unnamed wife of Manoah; John the Baptist to Elizabeth.

How could five loaves and two small fish feed over 5,000 people, or Peter catch fish in waters where he, the master of his craft, did not expect to find any? And how could a baby born of a virgin who grew up to die a criminal's death bring salvation to humankind? God chooses unexpected, small beginnings to give world-sized results. Fisherman Peter became a "fisher of men" who filled his nets during his lifetime of ministry. From 12 disciples, a worldwide church was born numbering millions who have trusted in God's plan of salvation through Jesus' death and resurrection.

Boards and leaders of missionary organizations long for our ministry to have an impact on lives for God. Our founders, Abe and Mary Kroeker, wanted printed books for French-speaking Africans. Did they imagine, at the outset, that their printed materials would reach eighty countries?

Synergie Francophone (formerly BLF USA) and BLF Canada, featured in this issue, are small organizations sharing a big vision for 300 million French-speaking people. French is a much-spoken world language with relatively little Christian literature compared with the vast array that is available in English. Synergie Francophone and BLF Canada have few staff members and small but faithful support bases. It is tempting to look to good strategies and methods to make our vision a reality, but "it is not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit" as God reminded Zerubbabel when he faced the mountainous task of rebuilding the temple. *continued on page 9*



"If God had perceived that our greatest need was economic, he would have sent an economist. If he had perceived that our greatest need was entertainment, he would have sent us a comedian or an artist. If God had perceived that our greatest need was political stability, he would have sent us a politician. If he had perceived that our greatest need was health, he would have sent us a doctor. But he perceived that our greatest need involved our sin, our alienation from him, our profound rebellion, our death; and he sent us a Savior."

— D. A. Carson

**Prominent evangelical scholar and author
Founder, the Gospel Coalition
Native of the Province of Québec, Canada**

(1992). "A Call to Spiritual Reformation: Priorities from Paul and His Prayers", p.109, Baker Academic

Québec, the Mission Field Next Door

The huge country of Canada is home to over 38 million people. Of these, almost 8 million (nearly 23% of the population) speak French. Only 35,000 Canadian French speakers (less than one percent) are Bible-believing Christians which, in missiological terms, classifies them as “unreached.” Around 85% of the province of Québec’s population speaks French. Because of their French ethnicity, history, and culture, Québécois are referred to as “a nation within a nation.”

Following the St. Bartholomew’s Day massacre of Huguenots in 1572, settlers arrived from France in the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries, creating New France, now Canada, making Québécois the first Canadians. Most of them remained in Québec, mixing their French culture with “First Nations” culture. Others spread throughout North America. Although many of the first arrivals were Huguenots, the Catholic Church was dominant in Québec for four centuries, controlling not only religion, but health care, education, and politics until 1960 when most of the people left the Catholic Church in what came to be called the Quiet Revolution. They replaced the old order with a new secular society that rapidly became post-modern. Today, organized religion is mistrusted, or even disdained. Catholic church vocabulary is even used for Québec’s choice swear words.

Many people, however, are willing to talk about spirituality. The challenge is to share the Gospel through genuine friendship, collaborative service, and creative “non-religious” approaches such as those adopted by

an InterVarsity Christian student group. They invited a Christian philosopher to a secular university campus to speak on the topic “If God is good, why is there suffering?” The down-to-earth, well-reasoned talk drew many questions from the audience. Some students asked for another evening like it.

The first evangelical churches were founded by Swiss missionaries Henriette Feller and Louis Roussy in the 19th Century. Church membership that had grown

to about 30,000 around 1900, had almost dwindled out by the fifties, but “In the decade of the seventies, evangelical work in French Canada exploded. From about forty evangelical churches, the work grew to just under five hundred churches and preaching points before settling down to just over four hundred.”¹ From 1970 to 1986, 32,000 people came to the Lord, multiplying church attendance by 555%. Immigrants from Haiti, Latin America, and French-speaking countries of

Africa have swelled the numbers in local congregations.

Although the population of Québec remains the least reached people group in the Americas, it is often overlooked outside of Canada (where English-speaking churches are both aware and supportive of ministry in the province) because it is assumed that the American continent is soaked in the Gospel.

Evangelism is strong within the church in Québec, and training for those who want to serve in the church—badly needed back in the sixties and seventies—is now available. Some churches and Christians in Québec, however, are not waiting until Québec is “reached” to play their part in fulfilling the



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One Hundred Christian Radio Stations for Québec

A vision was born in 1966. A small church in St.-Georges-de-Beauce, Québec, had paid for a 15-minute broadcast on commercial radio and offered copies of the New Testament to listeners. BLF Canada director Toe-Blake Roy's grandmother heard the broadcast and requested a copy. The church pastor delivered it in person.

Grandma invited her visitors inside and left the room saying that she would return. She dashed to the closet, pulled out a coat, ran outside, and climbed a ladder onto the roof where she draped the red coat on the chimney. Toe-Blake explains, "After the pigeons

and before email, cell phones and text messages, there was the red coat. A red coat on a chimney signaled to people working in the fields, 'Come quickly! There's an emergency!'"

After hurrying home and listening to the visitors explain the Gospel, Grandpa said, "I have been looking for the truth for 65 years. I believe that I have heard it today." He gave his life to Christ and started attending Bible studies with the "Baptist priest" and 35 others. In 1972, the whole family was baptized. Because God used radio to bring his family to Christ, Roy has always understood the importance of radio ministry.

FRENCH SPEAKERS ACROSS CANADA

The largest number of French-speakers in Canada is in Québec, but many live outside that province, the vast majority of whom have not yet been exposed to the Gospel. According to government figures, 700,000 French speakers live in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia.

Evangelicals in Québec make up a meager 0.6% of the population, but the percentage is even lower among French speakers outside of Québec. Our gracious God has had compassion on their spiritual needs and has orchestrated a wonderful work so that French speakers in Western Canada can hear the message of God's salvation.

Early in 2011, CIAM, a newly established Christian

radio station in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, appealed to Toe-Blake Roy for help presenting the Gospel in French on the airwaves. After a long application process with the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications (CRTC), they obtained the necessary permits and licenses, and the small radio station called Victory FM began programming.

In 2008, BLF Canada entered a partnership with programming specialist Aujourd'hui l'Espoir (Hope for Today*) to present the Gospel effectively and affordably to the French speakers of Western Canada. The English-speaking Evangelicals who had ministered in Québec for many years had produced spiritual children who now freely shared their work and resources so that French speakers outside of Québec could also be blessed with the Gospel! How well God works!

Since the first radio station proclaiming the Gospel in Saskatchewan was established, a new radio station has been set up in Peace River, Alberta (Peace River Radio) and another is planned for Fort St-John, British Columbia (Sunrise Radio). Other radio stations are strategically planned across Western Canada as resources permit.

French-speakers around the globe can listen to the programs at www.radioespoir.ca. In many countries, programming can be downloaded free of charge and broadcast on local radio stations.



TWENTY YEARS OF PRAYER

Whenever Roy attends mission conferences across Canada, he visits other exhibitors to find out what God is doing in the world. At Galcom International's table, he asked Allan McGuirl, the 80-year-old founder, when they would come to Québec to start a radio station.

HOPE FOR QUÉBEC

Transworld Radio joined the partnership, but none of the partners had experience in radio work in Québec, where dealing with red tape can be difficult. The first attempt failed, but they persevered. In 2021, the mother station began programming in Sainte-Catherine near Québec City and the first 250W FM radio station, installed in a church in Brownsburg-Chatham, went on the air. Using high speed internet, programs will be transmitted from Brownsburg to repeater stations in other towns across Québec.

From the 100 potential communities that have been identified, ten churches are in line to have a station. Roy will work with the municipalities on their behalf to seek permits and apply for FM frequencies. **We are seeking English-speaking churches to team up with the French churches to finance the costs of installation and programming and visit each other.** See the insert if your church might be interested.

When a new station goes live, the partners send an announcement by mail, together with a beautifully illustrated booklet entitled *Finding Hope*, produced by partner Every Home for Christ, to all the homes in range of the station. Canada Post is the surest

"Young man," Allan replied, "we have been praying for 20 years about doing that in Québec." "You can stop praying," said Toe-Blake, "It is time to act! I'm here; when can we start?" Roy wanted a radio station in his town of Lachute, but Allan asked, "Why just one? Why not 100 throughout Québec?"



Rév. Toe-Blake Roy (BLF Canada CEO), Marcel Perron (Hope for Today Founder), Eric Perron (Hope for Today CEO), Rév. Allan McGuirl (Galcom International Founder Emeritus)

means of getting the Gospel message into every home! The Brownsburg-Chatham station reaches 85,000 homes, but all the 125,000 households in a seven-mile radius that they hope to eventually reach have received the mailing, inviting them to tune in to 102.7, Brownsburg-Chatham, the first of 100 stations. Let's pray for 99 more!

*Hope for Today is a translation. It has nothing to do with a U.S.-based group of that name.

BLF CANADA'S HOLISTIC MINISTRY CARE: Preparing Workers Jesus' Way

By Ana Imes, Content and Style Editor

"God has a funny way of directing our lives," Bryan (full name withheld for privacy) said, referencing his move from Texas to Québec with his wife Michelle in 2014. Bryan had met Toe-Blake Roy, Director of BLF Canada, a decade or so before.

Bryan was born in Canada when his dad was stationed at an American military base in Québec.

He and Michelle are American. "We moved up here to start a home," Bryan said. His kids have French names and go to French school. Bryan and Michelle are trying to fully immerse their kids into the

culture of Québec. They have three, all of whom were born in Montréal.

When asked about BLF's impact on his life, Bryan said, "BLF has become our surrogate family. We started from scratch, so Toe-Blake found us a furnished place to stay. When we found a place of our own, he helped us move."

Roy's discipleship has also been important to Bryan. "Toe-Blake leads by example and he's a good role model," Bryan continued. "More importantly, he's a hands-on, humble, and down-to-earth man of God."

Bryan has been interested in preaching since he was young, leading him to earn his MDiv. According to Bryan, although Roy is “well-educated and solid theologically,” he still provides opportunities for Bryan to preach at his church. Now, Bryan has preached more sermons in French than he has in English.

The population in Québec is less than 1% evangelical. One implication of that, Bryan noted, is that “there is less ministry as career. In the States there is a tendency towards professionalism; in Québec [we] don’t have that luxury.” For example, Bryan works in computer programming, and most of his church ministry is done in addition to his full-time job.

Bryan’s favorite verse is Psalm 145:8. The verse



says, “The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.” His family has experienced the Lord’s graciousness through BLF Canada. Bryan hadn’t heard of BLF before he met Roy. But now, he is seeing BLF’s impact more and more. He said, “If I go to the Christian bookstore, sometimes I will see BLF on the back of the books... it’s really cool to see the reach that BLF has.” However, BLF is “not just Bibles and literature,” Bryan said. “It’s a ministry, coming alongside people wherever they are... engaging in hands-on, holistic ministry care.” This is one of several parallels Bryan has noticed between the work of Roy and his team and Jesus’ ministry in the Gospels.

BLF CANADA CELEBRATES 21 YEARS OF GROWTH

By Jordan Lockwood, Staff Writer

“Large streams from little fountains flow, Tall oaks from little acorns grow.”¹

A heart for the French-speaking people of the world drove Abe and Mary Kroeker to establish Éditeurs de littérature biblique (ELB – translation: Publishers of Biblical Literature) in Belgium in the 1950s. They had seen firsthand a desperate need for Christian literature in and beyond the Belgian Congo and stepped up to meet that need. ELB became Bibles and Literature in French (BLF) after merging with the Slavic Gospel Association (SGA), moving their operations to SGA’s newer printing installation in Northern France. By God’s grace and with generous help from friends, ministries of evangelism, teaching, and training supported by books and Bibles expanded well beyond the Congo to eighty countries worldwide. One branch of the growing BLF tree of ministry is BLF Canada.

BLF Canada was founded by people who wanted to make God’s Word available to Canada’s French-speaking population. Canadian Harry Enns, executive director of BLF USA at the time, drew together a Canadian team made up of Costas Yphantides, Walter Thiessen, and Cliff Davie. BLF Canada was officially incorporated with the Government of Canada in 2001 in Winnipeg, with Enns as interim director. In their first year, donations to the ministry totaled less than \$5,000.

The team worked to establish the new branch,

seeking more representation from Québec, where 85 percent of the population speaks French. They prayed for a permanent leader for the ministry with a passion for the French-speaking world and familiarity with Canada’s two official languages and the populations that use them.

During that time, Costas was serving on the board of the Fellowship French Mission, where he got to know Toe-Blake and Linda Roy, who were planting a church in Lachute, Québec. Roy was also teaching at the Evangelical Baptist Seminary of Québec (SEMBEQ). Born and raised in Québec, Roy had ministered there in French for more than a decade. After gaining his bachelor’s degree, he had added four master’s degrees through studies in English in Western Canada, London, Ontario, and Detroit, Michigan.

Costas led a group of Greek Canadian Christians who wanted to contribute to the church plant in Lachute. Roy shared with them the need for 100 chairs, but not just any chairs. They had to be chairs with a deep cushion “because the mind can only absorb what the body can endure!” After Roy requested 100 chairs at \$50 each, Costas said, “I want that man on the board of BLF Canada!” In 2004, Costas invited Roy onto the board where his knowledge of the French-speaking world grew along with his missionary vision. Two years later, after seeking God’s direction in prayer,



the board invited Roy to be the first director of BLF Canada. The Roys also asked God for direction, and he confirmed to them that this was his will.

One of Roy's strengths that has contributed to making BLF's work known is a commitment to creating meaningful partnerships throughout Canada, such as the one forged with Aujourd'hui l'Espoir, an evangelistic group with over two decades of ministry experience. BLF Canada and Aujourd'hui l'Espoir raised funds for the printing of 350,000 Gospels of John. In 2013, BLF Canada began partnering with Distributions Évangéliques du Québec, publisher of biblical reference tools in French, and printer and distributor of Christian books.

The board, staff, and budget of BLF Canada have continued to grow under Roy's leadership. Missionaries Zak and Jaël Kenney work in the field office in Lachute, Québec, Zak as Toe-Blake's assistant. Missionaries François and Marie-Paule Bédard minister in St-Camille, QC, and in Haiti, and provide pastoral care. Another missionary, Micheline Cabot, has helped the team spread the ministry well beyond Canada, including to Togo, West Africa. Whenever they travel, whether in Canada or to other nations, the missionaries take large

quantities of books for those they will teach. In Togo, they distributed 18,000 mini-Bibles and 60 pastor's libraries, training people to use them.

For people who cannot read printed books (in Haiti, for example, 40 percent of the people cannot read), BLF Canada has worked with In Touch Ministries and Galcom International to provide solar-powered recording devices, pre-loaded with sermons in French and the complete Bible in French and Creole. By partnering with missionaries, BLF Canada can deliver more than just literature. The missionaries train the local pastors to use the materials, leaving them equipped to continue the work of the Gospel long after the delivery of the resources. For those with access to technology, BLF Canada purchases SD cards containing libraries of books for leaders and pastors in Haiti who will go on to teach their congregations.

BLF Canada was founded and established with the same mission as BLF's founders: to reach the French-speaking world for Christ using literature to explain the Gospel and teach disciples who will grow and go on to teach more disciples. BLF Canada and its parent BLF USA, now Synergie Francophone (SF), are united in the vision to spread the Gospel through literature and partnerships. To support these efforts, BLF Canada receives funding from faithful Canadian believers, churches, and partners as well as occasional grants from SF made possible through SF's donors, such as funds for the printing of 10,000 New Testaments for Québec Hope 2008, an 11-day evangelistic event celebrating Québec City's 400th birthday and the faith of Canada's Huguenot ancestors.

Happy 21st birthday, BLF Canada. May your ministry continue to grow!

¹ D. Everett in *The Columbian Orator*, 1797, quoting a 14th century proverb.

UNDER THE HAITIAN SUN

by Amy Lynelle, Member of the Board

"If there's one thing there's plenty of in Haiti, it's the sun," remarked Reverend Toe-Blake Roy, director of BLF Canada. Roy was referring to the solar rechargeable audio Bibles in French and Creole provided to Haitian pastors in 2016. For nearly ten years, BLF Canada has trained Haitian pastors and equipped them not only with Bibles but also with concordances, Bible dictionaries, and other types of Christian literature. Roy, a native

French speaker, has made several annual trips to the Word of Life Bible School in the northern Haitian city of Limonade for the distribution of these materials and for theological training.

Haitian Christian leaders, eager to secure materials in French, discovered BLF Canada's website in 2013. Economic and cultural ties bind Haiti and the province of Quebec, due to the many members of the Haitian

diasporic community who have made Canada their home. Canada and Haiti both have French as an official language, making the partnership between BLF Canada and Word of Life Bible School a natural fit. Most pastors who come to Roy's sessions in Limonade for theological training benefit from those sessions being taught in French. Even for the ones who require Creole, someone provides French to Creole translation. Haitian pastors outside the school sometimes travel long distances to benefit from these resources, even sleeping inside the classroom overnight on mats.



Students at the Word of Life Bible School

This determination doesn't surprise Arisnel Mesidor, BLF Canada's newest board member, who hails from Haiti. Resilience is one of several qualities he has come to appreciate while serving Haitian communities. He specified that Christians in Haiti "don't talk about their faith, they literally live it." Many North Americans would be surprised to know that contrary to popular belief,

not all Haitians practice Vodou¹. As Mesidor stated, "Haiti has one of the largest Christian populations per capita in the world." Statistics from the latest edition of *Operation World* confirm this assertion, citing that ninety-five percent of Haitians identify as Christians.

These facts reiterate that Haitian pastors and other Christian leaders need Bibles, Christian materials, and training. As Roy explains, there are superstitions at work in Haiti that may not affect North American Christians, but that represent realities in Haiti. Without conservative theology and solid Christian resources, Haitian pastors are susceptible to false beliefs infiltrating their walk with Christ. Investing in the education of pastors is key to influencing Haitian society. Poverty is endemic in Haiti, but Roy points out that Jesus' model wasn't just to feed, but also to teach.

Mesidor believes that few people outside Haiti understand that Haiti's misery doesn't just come from within the country. Foreign politics have also played a role. Haiti achieved independence from France in 1804 after the only successful slave revolution in history, making it the first independent black republic and the second independent nation in the Western hemisphere after the United States. This independence, however, was only recognized by France when Haiti agreed to pay 150 million francs

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO FURTHER THE WORK OF THE GOSPEL IN THE FRENCH-SPEAKING WORLD:

Teams in Québec. Teams go to Québec for 10 days. Ministry, tailored to the gifts and skills offered by the team, could include construction, radio technology, and evangelism. Preparation is provided. Dates are flexible.

We are also looking for skilled people who are willing to serve as missionaries in France:

Graphic Designer to work with a publisher in Lyon (working remotely from the U.S.A. or Canada is also possible)

Trained apprentice offset printing operator, southern France

Printshop production worker/stock manager, southern France

French-speaking administrator/bookkeeper/computer-assisted publishing, southern France

In the U.S.A., we have opportunities for **Ambassadors** to share our vision in churches and at conferences. This role would suit missionaries who have returned from the field, or retired people with a desire to further God's mission. It is a self-supported, voluntary role that could be part- or full-time.

Together... planting, watering, growing fruitfulness

To explore these opportunities, contact Angela.Brandle@synergiefr.org or toeblake@blfcanada.org
synergiefrancophone.org • blfcanada.org

Do Not Despise Small Beginnings

continued from page 2 “Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin, to see the plumb line in Zerubbabel’s hand.” Zech. 4:10 (NLT). Our work may have started small, but it has grown. We may feel insignificant as we face the huge vision God has given us, but God reminds us how he works by his Spirit. As he brings fish into the nets and

fruitful outcomes from impossible situations, we will know that God is the One who did it. Do not despise the day of small beginnings. God is in them, and they are designed to give him the glory.

Thank you for being a part of the growing ministries you will read about in this issue.

Angela Brandle, Executive Director, Synergie Francophone

Québec, the Mission Field Next Door

continued from page 3 mandate God has given to his people to go to the nations. Québécois are serving French speakers across Canada and around the world. Describing a succulent steak dinner with mashed potatoes, gravy and vegetables, Toe-Blake Roy says that putting all the salt on one part of the dinner would ruin it. It is only as Québec spreads its salt around that the flavor of the whole plate – Québec and the world – will be improved. That is the

vision of BLF Canada, a missionary organization that seeks to glorify God by assisting the local church through providing Christian materials to meet the needs of evangelism and discipleship in the French-speaking world.

¹ D.A. Carson, in his book *My Father Was a Church-Planter in Québec*



Toe-Blake Roy

UNDER THE HAITIAN SUN

by Amy Lynelle, Member of the Board

continued from page 8 (ten times the amount of the Louisiana Purchase). The United States, with slavery on its own soil, refused to recognize Haiti until 1862. The early years of international isolation were followed by other Western interventions which exacerbated Haiti’s economic and social problems.

Haiti’s complex history is not the only thing obscured by today’s headlines. Haiti is rich in cultural traditions and colorful artwork, boasting the longest literary tradition of any former French colony. The nineteenth-century poet Massillon Coicou once wrote that in the colors of the sunset he saw the Haitian flag as if it were hanging from God’s hand.

God has been at work in Haiti despite the obstacles of poor infrastructure, natural disasters, and poverty. The COVID-19 pandemic and political instability in the wake of the assassination of Haiti’s president in 2021 have

prevented Roy from returning these last two years, but he is eager to travel to Haiti again. He plans for the next set of Christian materials to be on SD cards which can be read on laptops, tablets, or cellphones, since most

Haitian pastors have these devices even if they don’t have cars. He also hopes to have BLF Canada provide solar-powered tablets, which are especially useful to pastors without reliable access to electricity. The Word of Life Bible School in Haiti has recently formed a board and is planning projects for a library and a

place for pastors to stay during training sessions. Pray for conditions to allow Reverend Roy to return and for more Christian resources in French to plant the seeds for lasting transformation under the Haitian sun.

¹ This spelling of Vodou is the one most consistently used by scholars of Haitian culture and history. It reflects Haitian Creole spelling and refers to an Afro-Haitian religion practiced in Haiti.



Haitian flag (by Satyadasa)

The Next Step for the Phillips

In 2020, the Phillips family followed God's direction to move from the North of France to Lyon to work with French publisher Éditions Clé. They spent two years in a new city with a new team during the COVID-19 pandemic. Nathan and Annie's faith grew during their time there, and their trust in God deepened as they followed him one step at a time while designing books for printing. After two good years with Éditions Clé, as they prayed and sought counsel, God continued to reveal his plan to Nathan and Annie. The next step is a move to Montélimar, 90 minutes south of Lyon, where Nathan will begin work at a Christian printer called Iméaf, fulfilling another strategic role in the production of biblical resources for the French-speaking world.

WHAT IS IMÉAF?

Iméaf (pronounced "ee may af") stands for Imprimerie de la Mission Évangélique des Alpes Françaises (Print shop of the Evangelical Mission of the French Alps), founded in 1965 by the Evangelical Mission of the French Alps in the Château de Saint Albain. The Éditions du Château soon outgrew the castle basement and moved into their first building in 1969. The following year, the newly named Iméaf had a full staff of missionaries. By 1987, the volume of work had tripled, and construction began on a new facility in the hills above Montélimar. New machines were added over the years, and staff has changed, but the mission to print quality resources for the French-speaking world at a good price has not. In 2002, Iméaf became autonomous and continues to grow, adapting to changes in technology to improve its services.



Iméaf produces books, calendars, brochures, posters, business cards, SD cards, and more in a fast process from pre-press, printing, folding, collating, gluing, cutting, and shrink-wrapping the finished books or other media for shipping. The team of ten works to meet the printing needs of churches, publishers, pastors, evangelists, and lay Christians, as well as of large organizations such as Compassion Intl., Youth for Christ, Youth with a Mission, and other groups working in French-speaking countries. A listening ear is always ready to hear a client's specific needs, and questions are answered with expertise.

NATHAN'S ROLE

Nathan Phillips's skills as a graphic artist and years of experience working in the former print shop of BLF Éditions in Marpent have prepared him well to work with Iméaf. He will have two main roles: pre-press and graphic design. Pre-press work involves receiving electronic files from clients, preparing them to print, and sending them to the digital printing press or to the machine that makes large metal plates for offset printing. Graphic design includes everything from page layout and book covers to business cards, brochures and more.

The Phillips are supported missionaries. We are grateful for their committed team of supporters that enables them to continue serving in the Christian publishing sector in France. The move to Montélimar will involve additional monthly housing expenses and school fees. We invite you to pray with us that God will grow their support team. If you can help, please give via synergiefrancophone.org or send a check to Synergie Francophone, PO Box 629, Wheaton, IL 60187-0629, with a note saying that it is for the Phillips.

Missionary staff relieve financial pressure on publishers and printers in France who find it difficult to find and employ enough trained Christian workers. Fewer than 1% of the population in the French-speaking countries and areas of Europe are evangelical Christians, which makes the network of potential trained and skilled workers very small. In North America, however, such people are not quite so rare.

Please see our announcement on page 8.