

# IMPRESSIONS

Fall/Winter 2022

WHY  
we work  
HOW  
we serve

A publication of Synergie Francophone  
Formerly BLF USA

**Our values:** Our Desire to Authentically  
Reflect Jesus Christ



Synergie  
FRANCOPHONE

*Together... planting, watering, growing fruitfulness*

# We Are Our Message

**S**ynergie Francophone has answered God's call to work toward fulfilling the vision He gave to the Apostle John – of persons from every tribe, language, people, and nation gathered around the Lamb's throne proclaiming His worthiness. We work to obey His command to "make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded..."<sup>1</sup> and we do it in the beautiful language of French, the fifth most-used language in the world, spoken by hundreds of "tribes, peoples, and nations"! Why?

**Because we believe that everyone has the right to receive God's Word in a language they understand.**

Followers of Christ in all French-speaking countries of Europe and in Canada number fewer than 1% of their populations. Percentages in the thirty countries of Africa where French is spoken range from zero to a nominal 32%. Beyond these major concentrations of French-speaking nations are outlying ones such as French Guyana, Haiti, Laos, and its neighbors in former French Indochina, as well as numerous islands scattered from the Caribbean to Polynesia. This is our worldwide mission field! These countries desperately need the Word of God in a language they understand.

Our task is urgent. People are dying without ever having heard of Christ. According to Alliance for the Unreached, a third of the world's population is considered unreached. French-speaking nations and communities are part of that third. Major non-Christian religions control governments of many of them and are aggressively making inroads into others. Because of widespread inaccessibility to God's Word, false teachings entice people by appealing to the desire for material gain or topple Christians whose roots, like those of a banana tree, are too small to resist the storm.

God has chosen for us our niche in His global purposes to bring people into a living, flourishing relationship with Him by providing His Word and tools to study it in French. Entrusted with His mission, we want to do it worthily of the Lamb we proclaim, worthily of the calling He has given us, like a well-rooted, healthy tree bearing good fruit, our words and work coming

from the fullness of a heart attuned to God.<sup>2</sup> Nothing discredits a Christian's witness more than a life out of synchrony with his or her message. And nothing endorses our message so well as a life that reflects Christ's character. We cultivate that in ourselves, seek it in potential partners, and pray for it to grow in recipients of our ministry.



In this issue, we unpack for you not only the mission God has given us but also our commitments – our values – that shape what we want to be and how we want to serve His mission. "We are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us."<sup>3</sup> Our values set a biblical bar to hold us accountable to doing His will in His way. In this issue you will find a tribute to retiring board chairman Tom Rice, a saint who embodies those values and has

inspired us ever to be better, an article by partner Alain Stamp who models these qualities to his mentees, and a reflection by missionary Nathan Phillips on what he is learning about growth through suffering.

SF is in the business of changing lives by getting God's Truth to people and places where it is not known. What we desire for the recipients of our ministry, we desire for ourselves: truth in the inward parts that motivates our actions and is revealed through our words and work. We are our message. Authenticity and integrity matter to us. Not being perfect, we are on a transformational journey of growth towards increasing Christlikeness and fruitfulness. With God's help, we want to model the transformation we long to produce in others so that they become their message too.

Human souls, the prayers of the saints, and God's truth will last into eternity. As our partners, you pray with us for human souls to spend eternity with God because someone cared enough to give them the truth, train their Sunday school teacher, or supply their pastor with books to help him preach and teach. Please also pray for us and all our partners to grow in authentic Christlikeness so together we may passionately plant, water, and work with God to grow fruit that will last into eternity.

**Angela Brandle, Executive Director**

<sup>1</sup> Matt.28:19-20 • <sup>2</sup> Matt.12:33-35 • <sup>3</sup> 2Cor.5:20

# The Values We Care About

**W**hen choosing an organization to join or support financially, it is important to look at four distinctives that define it and distinguish it from other groups. Its mission, its beliefs, its values, and its people.

Synergie Francophone's mission statement spells out why we exist and how we make a difference in the world.

Your church might be more concerned about what we believe. Reading our beliefs shows you quickly if you are on the same page.

Our core values describe our DNA, our heartbeat, the way we want to live and work and see our disciples live and work. In this article, we unpack our values (our commitments).

That leaves our people. You will meet some of them in this issue. We want to reflect Christ authentically, not so that people think well of us, but so that their gaze will be deflected away from us to the God we serve, represent, and proclaim through the literature we provide to the world. In what follows, some of our people bring our values to life. Are these values yours too?

## Our Commitment to God

**We will be living sacrifices to God our Father, our minds and hearts focused on Jesus Christ our Lord, being empowered by the Spirit, guided by the Scriptures, nourished by prayer.**

**New Chairman of the Board, Ray Sanford, helps us understand why our commitment to God is critical to the very practical ministry of printing or purchasing materials and shipping them to people and groups who need them.**

*We are a living sacrifice* (Rom. 12:1-2) so that Francophones can hear the Good News. Every part of this ministry takes sacrifice. Our financial partners are sacrificing to be able to share income or wealth with us to multiply the Gospel's impact. A sacrificed animal (or person) doesn't benefit at all! We do not serve to be rewarded. We are not about SF becoming big, strong, and wealthy but about staying small and lean, sending the Gospel around the world where lives need to be touched.

*Our hearts and minds are focused on Jesus Christ our Lord.* If our work becomes anything other than doing the will of God, we have missed the mark. We are not a business. Some ministries start well but get excited about money and become commercial editors or publishers, their passion for the Gospel taking second place. We want to fix our hearts and

minds constantly on Christ. We want the Lord's Prayer to come true, that His will be done in the Francophone world, and that we would align ourselves with Him in carrying out His purposes because we know He will multiply, many will come to Christ, and fruit will be seen.

This requires being *empowered by the Holy Spirit*, waiting until God shows us the right way forward, instead of knocking on doors and receiving no conviction. As the Holy Spirit allows us to join Him, we can know we are in the middle of His purposes.

Being *guided by the Scriptures* is our life; we do nothing outside of them. Our role is getting the Scriptures to the world that needs them. **We are a Matthew 28:19-20 mission.** We want to see everyone, in every people group, *continued on page 4*





*continued from page 3* have an opportunity to be a disciple of Christ. Modeling Ephesians 4, we work with the entire Body of Christ, drawing in all the skills we need to equip the Body to do the work of the Gospel.

We and our work are *nourished by prayer*, without which nothing lasting can happen. If we quit praying, we will drift instantly from the pathway of Christ. As a

praying organization, board, and staff, we prepare every step and action in prayer.

Living each aspect of this commitment together prepares our hearts to join God in the vision He has given us, that even tomorrow one more French speaker will come to know Christ as his or her Lord and Savior.

## Commitment to Others

**We will be a community of Christ's servants who demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit, being accountable to one another.**

**Tom Rice, president of the SF board since 2008, sheds light on the development of our commitment to others over the past twenty years.**

The BLF (now SF) board has always sought to serve French-speaking countries in the developing world. "However," says Rice, "this goal went unfulfilled for almost twenty years."

Looking back, Rice sees the amicable split between BLF USA and BLF Éditions as a crucial step towards again fulfilling BLF USA's commitment to the whole Francophone world. It had become clear to our board that the two organizations' goals were essentially different. BLF Éditions was becoming a publishing business for France; BLF USA's original vision was to

serve the whole French-speaking world. A change was necessary to foster greater **accountability** for BLF USA as we reembraced our purpose.

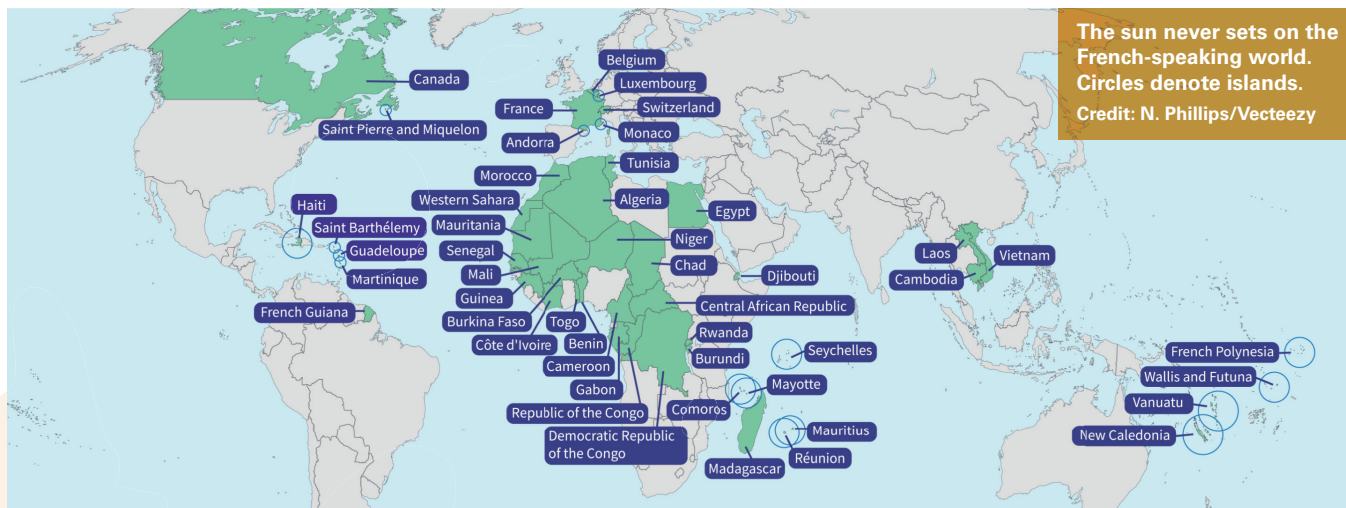
Following the split, BLF USA revitalized our original goal to be a **community of Christ's servants** by ministering to Francophones who do not have the resources to get Christian literature into their hands. According to Rice, the organization's recent name-change and rebranding have helped solidify this purpose. Angela, SF's new executive director who led the changes, Rice explained, realized that the BLF

logo and stories circulating about what we do did not reflect our heart. **"We care about providing materials to pastors, teachers, and evangelists, and that's the story we want to get out to the world,"** said Rice.

Rice explained that SF's commitment to others is motivated by the Great Commission as put forth in Matthew 28, as well as the need for Christian literature in Africa, Haiti, and elsewhere. "God is using SF to meet these needs, especially for young evangelists and pastors," he said. The stories of those who have grown their local communities using the resources provided by SF **demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit**, which has only continued to grow as SF's reach expands throughout the Francophone world.



**Recipients of literature in French during their studies, Haitian Bible School graduates are ready to teach God's Word in their communities.**  
Credit: Pastor Galilée



## Commitment to Ministry

We will demonstrate our passion for the lost and for growing disciples by providing quality Christian resources.

**Ray Sanford** explains how our passion stems from the reality experienced in Africa by our missionary founders over 70 years ago. They could meet people, explain the Gospel to them, and try to take them deeper, but had no resources to leave behind. They could not even share the Gospel of John, or allow people to read, study, and continue to grow. The world has progressed, but that reality has changed little in economies that do not allow people to buy what can easily be afforded in first-world countries. A Bible, easily affordable by a family in France, is inaccessible in Haiti, Côte d'Ivoire, or Benin. A printed Christian resource left behind by an evangelist or teacher makes all the difference in the world! Providing written resources that support the work of the Gospel, giving every person the opportunity to hear the Good News, deepen their relationship with God, and multiply themselves by pouring that truth into the lives of others has always been our passion.

Organizations like SIL (a global developer of language solutions) rightly express the desire for everyone ultimately to have the Bible in their heart language, but given the number of languages not yet addressed, it will be a long time before that can happen. When it does, printing for tribes of as few as 80 people will be costly [the smaller the print run, the higher the cost].

**"French, the trade language in many countries – is the place where people can grow."** says Sanford. "It's



what they learn in school. It's what books are written in. So, leaving behind a resource in French for people to study, going deeper on their own between visits of trained pastors and teachers, is so important."

"Our vision is to touch an increasingly significant piece of the world with the Gospel: every French-speaking country and island. We're in Congo and the core countries of French-speaking Africa; we'd like to touch all of it. We are in Haiti; we'd like to touch all the communities and islands where French is the trade language from the Caribbean to Polynesia. Our dream is for every French speaker in the world to have the opportunity to hear the true Gospel, respond to it, grow in Christ, and multiply themselves in their communities and beyond."

# Commitment to Stewardship

We will conduct our business affairs with godly wisdom and integrity.

SF's Director of Operations, John Saucedo, has personally witnessed our organization's commitment to stewardship since he started working with us in 2001.

## SF'S RELATIONSHIP TO OUR DONORS

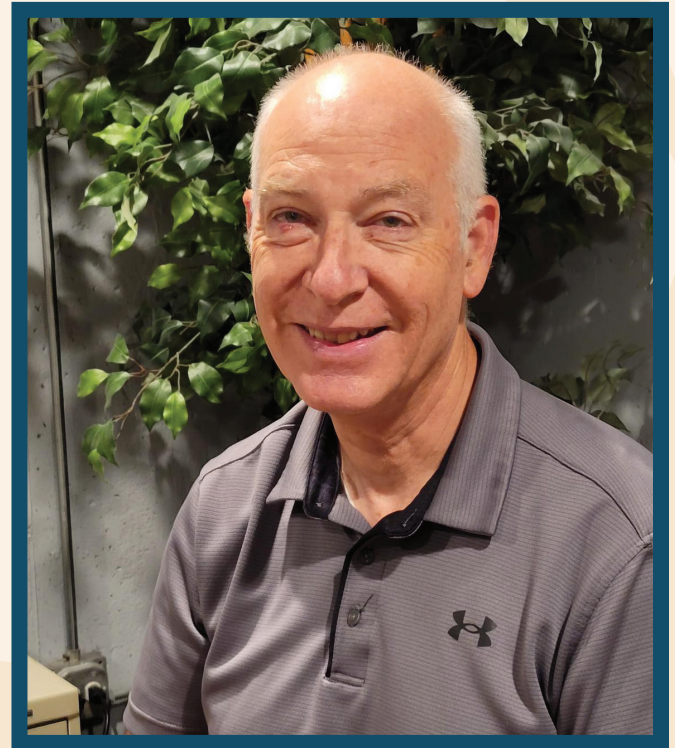
Sauceda described SF's relationship to our donors as modeled by Paul's relationship with the early church. Churches in the New Testament supported Paul's ministry financially in two ways. First, they supported him directly, which allowed him to use those funds instead of working as a tentmaker. Second, they gave Paul funds to take back to the church in Jerusalem as they were facing persecution, hardship, and famine.

The number of missionaries supported by SF over the years has decreased. Now, SF supports fewer missionaries and puts more funding towards projects such as *Fill Their Shelves*. "Giving to projects is like giving to the church in Jerusalem," Saucedo explained. SF strives to **conduct business affairs** like Paul.

## THE DONOR'S INFLUENCE

**Integrity** in use of donations is important to SF. According to Saucedo, the donor picks the color they want to paint with, and SF provides the color palette. "The donors, as they give their funds, need to resonate with the reason for giving those funds," Saucedo said. This is one reason why SF allows donors to decide what project they want to support, creating what Saucedo described as "a landscape of giving opportunities." SF also uses this giving model to remain transparent, so donors do not have to wonder what their donations are being specifically used for.

SF seeks to leverage donations from the U.S. "to make an impact in places where donors will likely never go, and where the recipients of the printed materials will make an impact in the kingdom of God."



John Saucedo, Director of Operations

## SF'S FUTURE IN RAISING SUPPORT

The number of SF's financial supporters has decreased over the years. To grow our donor base, Saucedo said, it would be wise to "reinvent ourselves and seek a younger generation who will pick up the torch."

"The commitment [to stewardship] has always been there," Saucedo said. "The challenge of today is how to shift the approach to reach the next generation. We are at a crossroads."

SF is seeking **godly wisdom** regarding the best ways to inspire young people to join with us. "There is more work to be done as we continue to rebrand and be out in the marketplace," Saucedo said. Meanwhile, we hope to increase outbound communication and find new donors who share our passion for reaching the Francophone world.



# Commitment to Partnership

We will build mutual partnerships with churches and other ministries to equip local churches for effective, fruitful ministry in their communities and nations and to encourage awareness of and participation in God's mission.

## IT TAKES THE WHOLE BODY

**Ray Sanford** says, "We understand that it takes the whole body of Christ to do His work, so we always work with others." Our partnership with Alain Stamp, a pastor and teacher who has been going to French African countries for years to raise up and train leaders, is a great example. Stamp was doing that in France when God poured into his heart a passion to raise up leaders in the wider French-speaking world.

Stamp needed resources to leave with his disciples to ensure that they could continue to learn. So, we began to partner with him to provide materials to key leaders. "Imagine," says Sanford, "if the pastor that you listen to each Sunday had all reference materials taken away—no concordances, no books about the history of Israel, no references at all – and was still expected to teach. Our desire is to make sure that resources are

available so that people can understand the Scriptures in a richer way to grow themselves and others."

## HOW DOES THE BODY GROW?

Growth begins with prayer partners because people cannot respond to Christ without God's Spirit. Donors help us buy the Bibles and books for trusted evangelists, teachers and pastors that can multiply their effect. SF builds relationships with a variety of suppliers (authors, publishers, and distributors) who have passion to see the Francophone world reached for Christ. Shippers and distributors send materials to the right places in the right way. It takes the whole Body of Christ, including all these partners, to make life and growth happen.

## CREATIVELY EQUIPPING THE BODY

As we provide Bible tools to African missionary surgeons who want to care for people spiritually as well as physically, they can leave something behind to help patients grow. Our working with contextual printers for our print-on-demand project in Kinshasa will produce locally printed materials at an affordable price. No one can express the Gospel, spiritual realities, and how to grow in Christ in a receivable way for their community better than the pastor or writer who grew up in the local context. So, we work to provide a platform for local writers to train and see their writing multiplied across the Francophone world.

We'd love to have more partners. Global leaders no longer come just from the French-speaking West. God is pouring His Spirit on Africans, Haitians, and others to bring the Gospel to the next generations, but they need resources. So, instead of just sending teachers out, we want to provide resources for Christian workers in French-speaking countries so that through us all, God will multiply His fruit.

**Which of our values resonate with you?**

**Please send us your comments by mail, email or on [synergieFrancophone.org](http://synergieFrancophone.org)**



Partners in prayer: Alain Stamp prays with mentees.

# We Are Our Message – Modeling Repentance

By Alain Stamp

In April 2016, I led a mentor training seminar for leaders from Burkina-Faso and Mali. Several of my mentees from Benin, DRC, and Togo joined me for the teaching. I invited them one morning to have breakfast and to experience a moment of fellowship. I had not had time to prepare a devotional. Before they arrived, I had been reading through Scripture. Since no one had anything specific to share, I asked my friends if we could just read and meditate on the passage that I was reading: Exodus 12:1-9.

After the reading, we asked ourselves: what was the problem that led Miriam and Aaron to criticize Moses? Is there anything similar between us? And suddenly there we were, looking each other in the face and confessing the roots of racism between us. For my part, I confessed that I had always thought I was not racist. In working with Africans, I had realized that my heart was not free of such thoughts. I asked for forgiveness from everyone. I repented of a leadership mistake that had hurt one of them.

Another confessed: I have never been exposed to racism, except once during my studies, when a white instructor spoke to me with great severity. I saw racism in her eyes. Last year in Mali, Papa Alain spoke to me very harshly, and I thought I saw the same racism in your eyes as I did in that woman's. But I ask your forgiveness, for I know that is not true.

A Burkinabé woman then turned to the Congolese man: I ask your forgiveness. When you joined us, I thought, "Here comes another Congolese!"

Another confessed: Yesterday, Papa Alain, you brought up something that you did not allow me to do. I said to myself, Papa Alain has something against me. I realize this morning that this is not true and that the problem is in my heart!

We fell to our knees, taking each other's hands, confessing our sins to God, realizing our need for His grace and cleansing. After this time of prayer, we got up, hugged each other, affirming our love and acceptance of each other. What a moment of joy and blessing to know that from now on, nothing separated us from each other,

that we were united in the fellowship of saints!

During this moment of prayer, I opened my eyes briefly and I saw my white hands mixed with the black hands of my brothers and sisters. We decided to take a picture that we called "The symbol of Ouaga<sup>1</sup>". Some used this picture on their letterheads... a way to emphasize and illustrate that our communion, our relationships, our collaboration, can only be based on confession of our sins to one another, and restoration by grace in Jesus Christ. And as we bring new people into our mentoring community, we will tell them how God has brought us into His light to live by His Spirit.

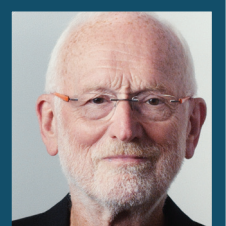
That night, alone in my room, I pondered the significance and implications of meditating on this simple text. I searched the Internet and came across an article by John Piper [<https://www.9marks.org/article/did-moses-marry-black-woman/>].

What if the problem of Miriam and Aaron was a problem of racism? Moses' new wife was Ethiopian, that is to say, "blackest of the black"! And the biblical text specifies, "And behold, Miriam was stricken with leprosy, she was white as snow!" Now I, the white man, had innocently introduced a text dealing with racism!

That evening I sent Piper's article to my friends and explained to them that I did not know that the text I had proposed to meditate on could be related to racism. One of them replied, "Don't worry, Papa Alain, God wanted us to move forward on this issue!" Later, he was with me in the Congo to share the teaching at a "training of trainers of mentors" seminar. He emphasized that the leader must model repentance by taking my example from this experience.



As a mentor and spiritual advisor, teacher, author, and radio presenter, Alain Stamp focuses primarily on guiding emerging or experienced Christian leaders in France and in Africa. With his blog [paroledementor.com](http://paroledementor.com), he seeks to share his thoughts, his spiritual walk, and his experience as a mentor to encourage leaders to be more and more like Christ. This story is taken from his blog.



<sup>1</sup>Ouagadougou is the capital of Burkina Faso



# Tom Rice, Model of a Christ-like Leader

After more than 20 years on the board of Synergie Francophone, Tom Rice has stepped down after his second term as Chairman. Three people who know him well, share their appreciation of Tom and his service to the French-speaking world.

## **A historical perspective – Karl Eisenmenger, board member:**

Early during Tom's entry to the BLF USA Board of Directors, several of the founding board members were retiring. BLF entered a period of transition both in Belgium, where publishing and printing operations were located, and in the U.S.A.

The publishing house in Belgium was facing issues: a need for modernization to enable efficient production, logistics of book distribution, and the lack of available parts for the aging offset printing press. The building in Belgium needed renovation. There was a need for closer community between BLF Europe, BLF USA, and a developing Canadian Board of Directors.

Tom brought to the board sound leadership experience and managerial skill that fit the opportunities for developing BLF's work around the world, fulfilling the board goal to empower BLF Europe (BLF Éditions, BLFE, now located in France) to mature in the art of publishing, printing, and distributing books with little or no assistance from outside. This maturing and modernization of BLFE having occurred, BLFE now relies on local French leadership. During the process, Tom was directly involved with bringing continuity to our efforts and good cross-cultural relations among the staff and missionaries God brought to BLF.

I believe God brought Tom to BLF at the proper time to help mature the mission of spreading the Gospel of Christ in the French-speaking communities around the world. Tom embraced the challenge before him and persevered to the level of "job well done." Thank you, Tom!

## **A personal perspective – Lynn Lockwood, board member:**

Tom was serving as chairman when I joined the board, and he is the person who first asked me to consider that role. From the very start, he has been



**Tom and Sue Rice in 2007**

accepting, appreciative of my background, and encouraging. He consistently communicates a caring about my life, marriage, and family, beyond my involvement in our ministry to the Francophone word.

I deeply appreciate Tom and Sue's commitment to people who speak French, even when they don't! Truly God calls us in His own unique way. Tom's leadership style includes trusting others to follow through on their responsibilities. I suspect I'm not the only one who has been pushed way outside my comfort zone by Tom's conviction that I could do something I never imagined.

## **A Biblical perspective – John Saucedá, Director of Operations:**

Sauceda described Tom as "a man of passion. A great communicator with a twinkle in his eye." He said Tom's drive comes through in "his many facets of leadership," and that Tom works heartily as for the Lord, just as Colossians 3:23 commands.

"Tom can listen well and then take things to the heart of the matter," Saucedá continued. Proverbs 18:13 says "The one who gives an answer before he listens - this is foolishness and disgrace for him." Tom listens first.

"Have you ever seen that little twinkle in Tom's eye, followed by a big smile?" Saucedá asked. "Tom is a man who allows his eyes to be a lamp to his soul." Psalm 16:8-9: "I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body will also rest secure."

# Suffering and Healing, a Continual Journey of Faith

By Nathan Phillips

For most of us, these last few years have been a time of uncertainty and questions as the stability that we took for granted disappeared. Hardships experienced during this time have revealed how many of us need emotional and spiritual healing. God has used some difficulties in our lives to take Annie and me to deeper levels of healing and transformation in our growth to resemble Christ. Here is what we are learning:

Our ideas often limit the need for healing to those who are seriously hurt physically or emotionally, but healing applies to every one of us because we are all broken people. The Christian life is a life of healing. The healing begins when we come to Christ broken by our own sin (as in Romans 3:23). As saved sinners, we will continue to heal until we are with Christ for eternity. This journey is often called “sanctification.”

When hearing stories from missionaries about how their wild adventures grew their faith, or when persecuted Christians risk their lives for Jesus, we think, “That is great! But that is for them, not for me.” Unsurprisingly, when we ask God to grow our faith, people say, “Be careful what you ask for.” None of us would choose to suffer and become so broken that we reach rock bottom, forced to look to God for our healing. In hindsight, however, we see how God used our pain to bring us true healing and growth. We have moved forward on the journey.

James (1:2-3) says, “Consider it all joy, my brothers and sisters, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” No matter where God has placed us, we have areas where our faith can grow. Throughout the day, we have the choice to abide in Christ or to remain in our flesh. The choices are small – giving in to temptation because it makes us feel better for a moment or choosing God’s path of healing by turning to Him instead. As we discover what



God is like, daring to trust and follow Him one step at a time, we heal – and our faith in Him grows. Whatever we face, we can choose healing and growth by following Christ’s example of selflessness. In Luke 9:23, Jesus says, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”

God calls us out of our brokenness, whether it is from our own sin or from sin done to us by someone else. As we look at our hurt, we can choose to give in to feelings of not knowing if we can ever go on or recognize that we need more of Christ who will use the situation to heal and transform us. Let us continually choose the path of healing and say, “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”





Students gathered outside the auditorium at UBECA with minds and hearts hungry to be formed

## You Gave Books - Changing Minds and Hearts

By Mary Ann Miller

**T**he chaplain of UBECA university at Dungu, DRC, asked the students who have read books in the library supplied by SF's donors what they learned and how these books have helped them. We share some of their testimonials below:

Jeanne read *What is the Mission of the Church?* by Kevin DeYoung and Greg Gilbert. "As members of the Church," says Jeanne, "we are to actively invite people to turn toward the Gospel, serve the neediest of this world, reconcile sinners with Christ, and accomplish the mission that Jesus entrusted to us. That task is to proclaim the Good News about Him. It will not be accomplished by our own strength, but by the Holy Spirit. God doesn't send His Church to conquer the world, but He sends it in the name of Him who has already conquered it. We are to glorify God."

Alfred Kuen's *Le message de Paul* has given Justin a thirst to read not only the books relevant to his studies, but also books that will help him believe in the Creator God, His Son, and the Holy Spirit. He wants to be able to speak in public like Paul and to write down his thoughts from reading and studying books on God's Word. He says, "This book has helped me to believe in the existence of a true God who created the Earth and the Universe, as Paul explains to the pagans in Athens. The flesh often opposes the Spirit; God asks me to satisfy not only the needs of the flesh. Each Christian has the Holy Spirit from the moment he receives the Good News with faith. This book has helped me to experience a new birth in Jesus. He asked me to believe, to be transformed, and await His return at any moment."

Emanuel says the *Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties* by several authors "taught me that if I put the Word of God into practice, the Lord will answer my prayers and will prepare me to live in heaven. If I observe the Ten

Commandments, I'll not have problems with my neighbors; we'll live near each other peacefully."

Anastasie finds that *New City Catechism* by several authors, "is helping me not to worship idols, the gods of a polytheistic or animistic religion. The book has touched my relationship with the Lord: I need to attach myself to God, love and believe in His Son who is God, whom God sacrificed so that we can have a new life. As for my relationship with my neighbors, I need to know that God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are One and the Father of all, so we His children ought to love each other."

*Finally Free* by Heath Lambert deals with pornography, a present-day scourge that has destroyed many human relationships and prevents people from having a relationship with God. Ernest said, "Reading this book has helped me discover certain strategies, based on God's grace, for overcoming pornography. I now understand that God's grace can transform my life, help me confess my sin, ask God to forgive me, and give me a life of gratefulness and hope. Jesus Christ has the power to liberate captives of sin!"

*A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23* by Phillip Keller helped Yvonne realize that "if the Lord is my Shepherd, I ought to learn to know Him and experience His power. Through this book I see that as a Christian, I shouldn't fear. If I 'walk in the valley of death,' the eternal God is with me. This encourages me to live in God's presence during my life on earth."

These are only a few of the comments received, showing that the books you purchased for the school are giving the students a deeper understanding of Biblical truth that is changing their lives. And they'd like more books to continue learning and growing!

To continue ministry to students at UBECA and other Christian colleges, we invite you to donate to *Fill Their Shelves*, presented on the insert.



## WAYS TO SERVE GOD WITH SYNERGIE FRANCOPHONE:

- **Ambassadors in the U.S.A.** Full or part time.
- **Communications Coordinator, U.S.A.** Printed and digital communications.
- Opportunities in France: **Graphic designer; Offset printing operator/apprentice; Printshop production worker/stock manager; French-speaking administrator/bookkeeper; computer-**

**assisted publishing.** Some roles could be done remotely from the U.S.A. or Canada.

- 10-day **Teams to Quebec** for construction, evangelism and other ministries.

To explore these opportunities, contact [Angela.Brandle@synergiefr.org](mailto:Angela.Brandle@synergiefr.org) or [Toeblake@blfcanada.org](mailto:Toeblake@blfcanada.org)

## JOIN A PROJECT | CHANGE A LIFE | GROW FRUITFULNESS

**A Bible that Makes Sense.** Give leaders and teachers study Bibles in French with articles and applications written by African theologians. **Goal: \$1,440**

\$

**Adopt a Country.** Bring God's Word to people in one of the world's poorest countries, Burkina Faso, and equip leaders and evangelists. **Goal: \$15,000**

\$

**Beautiful Feet.** Put Bible teachers on the ground in Africa, Haiti, and other countries to mentor and train leaders. **Goal: \$3,000**

\$

**Christmas Year-Round.** Give the gift of a Christian book to change the life of a child, a refugee, or a needy family. **Goal: \$5,000**

\$

**Culturally Correct.** Sponsor Christian theologians writing Christian books for their cultural contexts. **Goal: \$1,000**

\$

**Fill their Shelves.** Supply books for libraries at Christian universities and Bible colleges overseas to help students understand, apply, and teach God's Word to others. 12 universities are waiting for their first books. **Goal: \$10,000**

\$

**Gospel Waves.** Help to share the Gospel in the Province of Quebec, Canada, by funding the setting up of 100 Christian radio stations and the distribution of Christian literature. **Goal: \$3,000**

\$

**More than Surgery.** Give African missionary surgeons the spiritual "sword" to go with their scalpel by donating to biblical resource packs. **Goal met for first book distribution.**

\$

**Read Right Now.** Help to install a print-on-demand center in Kinshasa, DRC, to print small or large quantities of books for less without shipping expenses. **Goal: \$73,000 (remaining amount needed of original total of \$116,000).**

\$

**Train the Teacher.** Allow new generations of children to learn God's ways with SF's Sunday School Curriculum. **Goal: costs of reprinting**

\$

**Write Truth Right.** Help to train Christian journalists to influence readers for Christ through our partner Magazine Training International. **Goal: \$1,055**

\$

**Missionary Support:**  
**Walter Zurfluh**

\$

**Missionary Support:**  
**Russ and Mary Ann Miller**

\$

**Missionary Support:**  
**Nathan and Annie Phillips**

\$

**Where most needed:**

\$

Name: ..... Street: .....

Phone: ..... City, State, ZIP: .....

*Together...* planting, watering, growing fruitfulness

**Envelope provided for your response.**

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