

# IMPRESSIONS

Vol.4.2

**70<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Edition 2**  
Thank God for the Past and Build the Future.

A publication of Synergie Francophone  
Formerly BLF USA

Expanding  
the  
Harvest



Synergie  
FRANCOPHONE

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

Credit: Angela Brandle

# Expanding the Harvest in the French-Speaking World

**70<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Edition 2**  
 Thank God for the Past and Build the Future.

In this second 70th anniversary edition of *Impressions* magazine, we turn our eyes to fruit. The idea of fruitfulness begins with the creation of humankind. God's first command is to "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth." This idea of fruitfulness and multiplication flows through the story of the entire Old Testament, and Jesus takes it up repeatedly in the parables of the kingdom. One of the best-known is how the kingdom is to spread throughout all the earth like leaven in a batch of dough. Jesus' teaching culminates in the night before his death when He declares, "I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit." We celebrate all that God has done in and through Synergie Francophone—because He has been the one who has produced the fruit.

We rejoice with the angels in heaven for every believer who exists today because of having the right materials in the hands of the right people. We rejoice in the biblical resources for seminary and Bible school students. We rejoice in Sunday school materials making the Good News available to children in a way they can understand and believe. We rejoice in books and Bibles equipping leaders to preach, train, and equip new disciples to multiply. We rejoice in seeing the fruit of the Gospel in new lives given to Christ and maturing as disciples. We rejoice in the ever-growing network of strong francophone leaders whom we have the joy of supporting in their ongoing work of the Gospel.

As we look forward, God has given us new partners, new books, and new opportunities to see the Good News expand more than ever before. Firmly rooted in prayer, we know God will keep his promise that his



*Credit: Ray Sanford*

Word, when put in the hands and the hearts of people, will never return to Him without having its desired impact. Today there are more opportunities than ever across francophone Africa, Canada, Haiti, and other French-speaking countries around the world.

In this unique issue, you can learn how Beautiful Feet partner, evangelist, and oncology nurse Annette Nikièma is doing pioneering work to ensure suffering cancer patients in Africa receive palliative care (page 3). You can read Pastor Modeste's first-person account of his travels distributing Bibles among the Pygmy people of the DRC (page 7). You can also read how SF missionaries Nathan and Annie Phillips are helping to provide biblical resources to those desperate for the Gospel (page 5). As you read these stories, we invite you to join us in worshiping God for what He has done. (It was such a joy to celebrate 70 years of God's goodness and guidance with some of you in person at the board conference and jubilee celebrations this past August!) We hope recounting how God is bringing fruit through the ministry of those whom we serve will encourage you and demonstrate our ongoing commitment to the Great Commission: seeing believers in every people group living out the love of Christ.

May these stories touch your heart and build you up as you join us in seeing the Gospel taken to the ends of the earth.

*Ray Sanford, President of the Board*



Credit: Annette Nikièma

# When She Wanted to Quit, God Chose Her to Change a Country

Based on a testimony enthusiastically recounted to Angela Brandle by Alain Stamp

**D**uring my first trip to Africa at the first Evangelists' Forum on that continent, I met a brilliant, lively young woman called Annette. Her rich personality and very high potential were evident. A lady evangelist, who took Annette to share the Gospel in the bush after the conference, confirmed that Annette is a true evangelist.

Annette is an oncology nurse. In Africa, not much attention is given to the problem of physical pain. After Annette, a leader from Togo, and I had led a year-long mentorship training for multiplying evangelists, Annette told me how discouraged she was to see so many people suffer dreadfully when dying of cancer. Even though some people were healed after she prayed for them, seeing so much pain and suffering had overwhelmed Annette to the point that she was considering leaving her medical ministry.

At the time, my wife Martine had trained and become engaged in a palliative care ministry in France called "Jusqu'à la mort, accompagner la vie" (Until death, walk with the living). I told Annette about this and asked whether she, together with people from her

church, could create a ministry to assist dying people and their families. My idea was that she could come to France to learn about palliative care.

I contacted a doctor who runs a cancer clinic in Strasbourg linked to the ministry with which my wife was working. I explained Annette's needs to her. She replied, "You want to respond to the needs of one person, but I receive the same requests from Benin, Togo, and other places. We need a more widespread solution." The doctor added me to an email group including the great palliative care specialists in France. Featured in this correspondence was a ministry in Uganda called "Hospice Africa" that gives palliative care training for Africa. So, there it was! Instead of bringing Annette to France, we sent her to this training in Uganda. Friends joined us to give money for the training and Annette's flights.

Annette returned to Burkina Faso with a vision of how to care for her patients. She had also become familiar with precise WHO regulations for making oral morphine. In Africa, oral morphine is not available

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Credit: Annette Nikièma

*Continued from page 3*

to doctors, even though it is easy to make and costs next to nothing. With the only three oncologists in her country, Annette set up an association to develop palliative care.

They soon found themselves up against Burkina Faso's bureaucracy surrounding the manufacture of oral morphine. From 2018 to 2023 they exercised patience, perseverance, and prayer. My church and friends joined us in prayer for Annette. In October 2023, Annette and her colleagues' efforts culminated in a meeting to begin the manufacture of oral morphine for use by the medical profession in Burkina Faso.

It is extraordinary to see how investing in one person benefited a whole country! And it went further still. In 2022 she completed further training in a palliative care hospital in Bordeaux, France, where Professor Benoît Burucoa, president of the Association pour le Développement des Soins Palliatifs en Afrique (Association for the Development of Palliative Care in Africa), recognized Annette as an influential leader in her country.

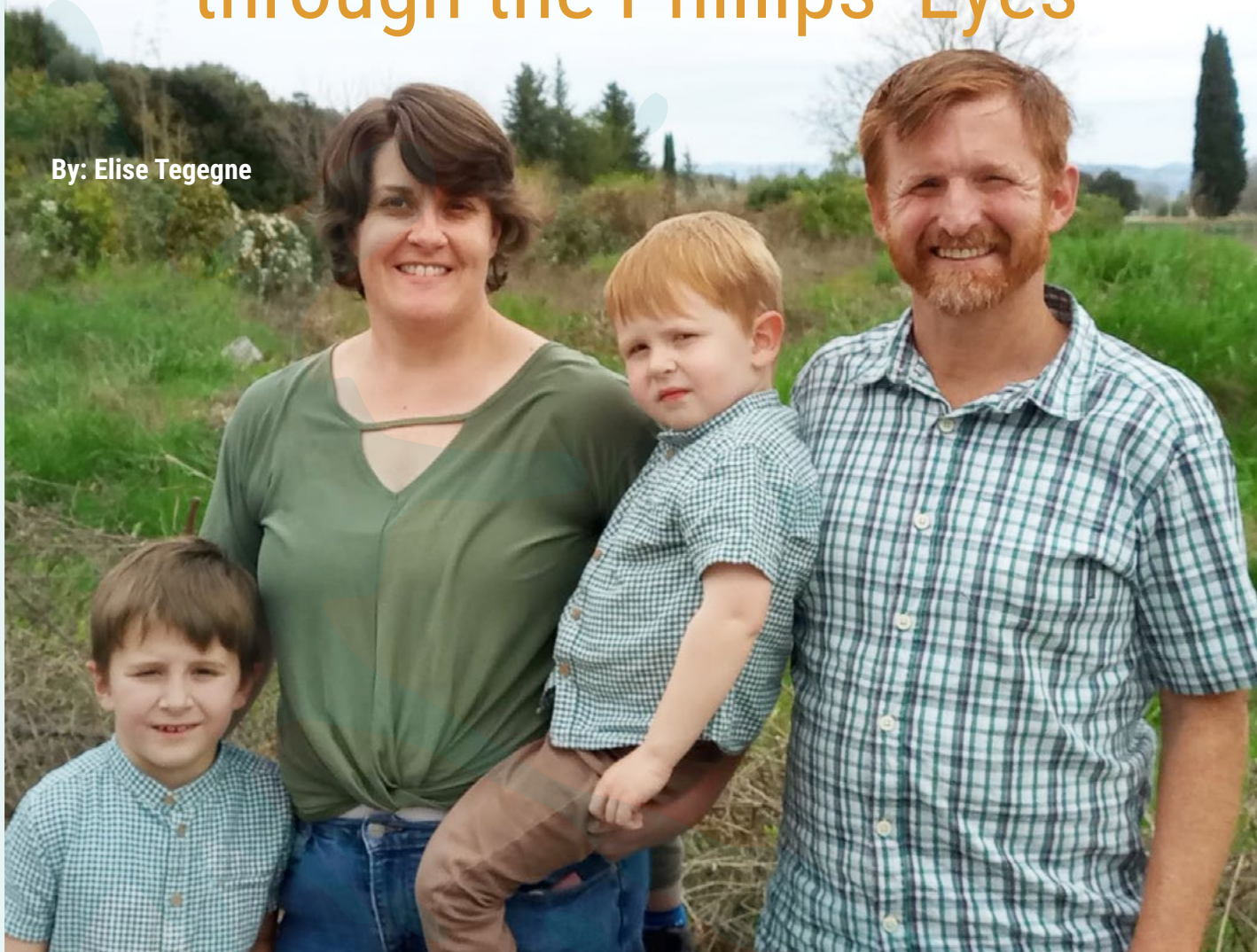
He asked her to help fulfill this vision by accompanying him to Benin to talk about her own experience and multiply not only palliative care services but also the manufacture of oral morphine in Benin, too!

For me, this story reflects the bounty, kindness, and grace of our God, his faithfulness over the years, his answers to prayer, and the fact that God invites us to work in his kingdom by bringing a holistic understanding and response to the needs of humanity. In this way, we can be the "good Samaritan" to those whom God puts in our path.

*Annette Nikièma is an evangelist and oncology nurse in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. She is one of SF's Beautiful Feet partners and, with her church, has helped developed a ministry to detainees in one of the capital's prisons for which SF has provided a library. View Annette sharing about her ministry on our YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/@SynergieFrancophone](https://www.youtube.com/@SynergieFrancophone).*

# The Impossible Dream Continues: SF's History in France through the Phillips' Eyes

By: Elise Teegne



Credit: Nathan and Annie Phillips

**W**ho knows how a piece of printed paper could change someone's life? Tennessee-native Nathan Phillips had never thought of being a missionary. But a friend gave him an Éditeurs de Littérature Biblique (ELB) brochure, which he had in turn received from ELB ambassador Walter Zurfluh.<sup>1</sup>

Through the printed word, a seed was planted. Jumping into a one-year graphic design internship,

Nathan arrived at the ELB print shop in 2005, just one year after ELB merged with the Association Évangélique Slave/Services (AES) to become BLF Éditions (BLFE). It was a turning point in SF's history. In addition to printing, the organization became a full-fledged publishing house. Once the merger was complete, Nathan helped empty out La Grande Maison in Braine-

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1. To learn more about Walter Zurflugh's legacy see *Impressions* Vol. 3.2.

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le-Château, Belgium, which had hosted nearly a decade of Impressions teams. A former bus depot in Marpent, France, became the new BLFE headquarters.

But one year was not enough for Nathan. After contacting over 100 churches before raising enough support for full-time missions work at BLFE, Nathan returned to Marpent in 2008. While looking for an apartment, he lived with Nicolas Devins, who would later be his boss at the Imprimerie Évangélique des Alpes Françaises (Iméaf), the biggest Christian print shop supplying the francophone world. For the next 12 years, Nathan served in the BLFE print shop and designed book covers.

Like Nathan, Annie Baziuk learned about BLF through the Zurfluhs, who spoke at her church in Bakersfield, California. Fifteen years later in 2010, members at her church sent an Impressions team through BLF USA, which Annie (reluctantly at first) joined. On the trip, she met one Nathan Phillips, and the two began a long-distance relationship. Once again, God was at work growing seeds faithful missionaries had planted years before.

On the plane ride home from the trip, Annie knew God was calling her to missions, but had two conditions: she didn't want to learn French and she didn't want to go to France. Despite her resistance, she eventually decided to go. "I already knew that it was going to be [for a] lifetime," she said in a recent interview with SF. Annie arrived in November of 2011, and before Christmas of that year, she and Nathan were engaged.

Around this time, BLFE was struggling to continue as both a print shop and publishing house, so it began focusing on publishing. The historic machines that had printed millions of books, tracts, and Sunday school materials were dismantled and shipped to Benin. Once again, Nathan (and now Annie) witnessed another key transition in SF's story. They helped finish up some of the last printing projects, which were then exported to Iméaf.

As COVID-19 shuttered the globe in 2020, changes

were unfolding at BLFE. The publishing house became independent from BLF USA, and today publishes around 20 Jesus-centered books annually. That same year, the Phillips decided to transition to a Christian publishing house called Éditions Clé.

After six years of working with BLFE as a married couple, Nathan, Annie, and their two sons Benjamin (age three) and Caleb (ten days old) moved from Marpent to Lyon. Here, Nathan did inside layouts, website design, and book covers to help fulfill Éditions Clé's mission of publishing resources to help others understand the Bible and communicate the Gospel.

In 2021, BLF USA became Synergie Francophone (SF). In consultation with the newly hired

Executive Director Angela Brandle and the SF board, the Phillips moved to Montélimar to serve with Iméaf, with whom SF had created a strong partnership.

Having built a network of solid relationships with the biggest Christian bookstore chain in France and publishing houses like Editions Clé, Iméaf is an integral part in publishing biblical resources in French. Annie observed that their location in Montélimar is geographically strategic. "We have...a link into all the different publishing houses."

While Annie disciples their two sons at home, Nathan serves in the print shop. Thanks to nearly 20 years of experience with SF, Nathan understands the ins and outs of the printing process: from prepress<sup>2</sup> to book cover design. Throughout the Phillips' story with SF, God's hand has been evident. "It really has been an amazing thing to watch and look back on," Annie said.

Like SF, Iméaf aims to help distribute biblical resources to share the Gospel, multiply disciples, and equip the Church. "What we're producing at Iméaf is the same thing that SF is aiming for," Nathan said. Each year, the Phillips support Iméaf's work to print hundreds of thousands of brochures and millions of tracts, which various Christian nonprofits take across the French-speaking world. The publishing house also prints calendars, which are popular in France, where about 1% of the population is evangelical Christian. Nathan recalls hearing story after story of how Christ-

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2. Taking files from customers and ensuring they are ready for printing

# Diary of an Itinerant Evangelist

Based on Pastor Modeste François Mutshiwudi Mbombo's account of his travels distributing Bibles to the Pygmy people of Kiri through Congo Open Heart

## I. Inongo

Today I took a Kin Avia flight from Kinshasa to Inongo, the capital of the Mai-Ndombe province in the west of the DRC. Mai-Ndombe ("black water" in Lingala) is a province of dense forests, rivers, and lakes. After the plane touched down in the July heat, I tried to find a boat to Kiri. The Congo has many deep, dark waterways, so you can travel almost anywhere by boat. But I couldn't find any. I had to wait almost a week because the sole option to reach Kiri, a boat called a *baleinière*, was only available on Fridays.

The next day, I joined a Sunday morning service. During my stay in Inongo, I met with the local authorities and others, sharing God's Word and the vision of Congo Open Heart, which is to equip servants of God in rural areas and renew the tool of spiritual labor—the Bible. Unfortunately, Bibles are either missing



Pastor Modeste on board the boat for Kiri. Credit: Pastor Modeste

in the heart of local churches or so worn out that pages are already lost.

Indeed, this is why I volunteered to save souls through these rural churches. Here, I discovered that many Pygmies suffer discrimination in Inongo, so they gather to worship 45 or 65 kilometers away, either by road or by lake. These vulnerable brothers and sisters in Christ have both spiritual and material needs, such as medical care and clothes for women and naked children. There are some photos I cannot publish; it's sad. Sometimes they don't have Bibles. My prayer is that we can bring them some copies, God helping. The world is thirsty for the Word of God.

## II. Kiri

On Friday morning, I boarded the *baleinière* on Mai-Ndombe Lake. Built of hardwood, these 35-foot open boats transport so many people and so much merchandise they sit low in the water—and sometimes sink. On Saturday morning, after nearly 24 hours on board, we arrived in Kiri at last. There, the Pygmy pastors and people from other communities welcomed me, after which I gave them Bibles in Lingala and talked with them. They had been waiting for me in Kiri for over a week.

Then, I rented a motorcycle to drive 62 kilometers east to Pendjwa. My goal was to encourage certain Pygmy servants of God who had missed the chance of meeting me on my first trip.

## III. Pendjwa

Arriving at Pendjwa, I met by surprise some important people in the community and the chief of the Pendjwa government. They then entrusted me with their Pygmy



Credit: Pastor Modeste

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Credit: Pastor Modeste

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 representative who is a government worker. He led me to Pendjwa's General Reference Hospital (HGR) where I was well-received by the doctors. There I found a Pygmy worker in charge of the HGR's administration.

The head doctor gave me a tour of all the HGR's buildings. These buildings are not equipped, and some sick people were confined there, including infants, children, men, and women. There were babies kept in rooms until their penniless families could settle the hospital bill. I cried because I had nothing on me to pay for even one single baby.

On Sunday, I distributed 50 Bibles to the Pygmy pastors from churches in the area that had gathered for the Sunday service. All the pastors at the service were satisfied because I exhorted them on the love of God and neighbor.

I cordially pass along the warm greetings of our Pygmy brothers and sisters, beneficiaries of your precious gifts and the testimonies of those who



converted and accepted Christ as their Savior and Lord. May God bless all those of good heart who contribute to the purchase of Bibles for the churches in the equatorial forest and rural areas.

As soon as I returned to Kinshasa, I became sick and am convalescing with medication, but I'm forcing myself to send you this little report. Support us in your daily prayers. May God protect you in the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

*In 2023, the founders of Congo Open Heart, Clement (Bud) and Charlotte Kroeker, entrusted their work of Bible distribution in the DRC to SF. Having accepted the mantle of this vital ministry, SF will work with intrepid, faithful partners such as Pastor Modeste.*



Credit: Pastor Modeste



# The Best Possible Time to Join

By: Elise Teegne



Lynn Lockwood. Credit: Karin Wilcox



Pam Smith. Credit: Karin Wilcox

What's it like to serve on the board of Synergie Francophone? How has God been at work? Why join? At SF's annual in-person board conference this past August, Lynn Lockwood and Pam Smith stepped down from the SF board for a mandatory year-long sabbatical. These gifted women took time to share their reflections on their combined 26 years of service supporting SF's mission of equipping the Church with biblical tools in French.

Both women found SF through relationships with other board members. For Lynn's parents, who were deeply committed to SF (formerly known as "ELB" and later "BLF"), serving on the board was a "highlight" of their lives. Having grown up with the Kroeker family like cousins, Lynn wasn't surprised when she was approached to join. SF's former Executive Director Harry Enns recruited fellow church member Pam, who wanted to be part of making a global impact and reaching the underserved.

After joining the board in 2011, Lynn and Pam had the privilege of seeing God work in incredible ways. One answer to prayer Pam recalled was Angela Brandle's appointment as executive director: unifying the organization, helping develop a strategy, and "infusing such an enthusiasm within the whole team." She also saw BLF Éditions become self-sustaining, freeing SF to focus more on the parts of the world with the fewest biblical resources in French, particularly Haiti and francophone Africa.

One of those African countries is Senegal. Lynn's board membership helped connect indigenous

missions agency Mission Inter-Senegal with four libraries from SF this year alone: for a local Christian school, two Bible schools, and MIS headquarters. On one of her trips to a Senegalese village with which her church has a partnership, she stepped out of the van and was amazed to see a 16-year-old reading John Piper while waiting for her team's arrival.

Another recipient of SF resources, a Senegalese mother of three, shares Jesus with 150-200 children weekly, while adults gather on the fringes and pretend not to listen. "God just keeps opening doors," Lynn said. For Pam, being "able to have a small part" equipping communities like the ones in Senegal was the best part of being on the board.

Relationships were also a highlight of board membership for both women. "The team is so collaborative that we've all worked together well," Pam said. Lynn added, "I trust the other people on this board implicitly." Through the years, fellow board members have become not only missions-minded partners in reaching the French-speaking world with the Gospel, but faithful friends. "I have loved seeing God work in their lives," Lynn said. Board members have given her personal support, including encouragement in her marriage and church life. "I know I can reach out for prayer at any time."

Both women cherish their experience serving on the SF board. Helping bring people to Christ and strengthen their walk with Him is transformative, "life-saving work," Pam said. "It's a beautiful mission." And

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# Synergistic Sisterhood

Based on an interview with Toe-Blake Roy, the director of our sister organization BLF Canada since 2006

**SF:** Could you explain how you got connected to SF?

**TB:** I was serving with teams in Quebec constructing, building churches, renovating churches, bringing teams from Ontario. One of the new board members of BLF Canada visited and asked if I would be willing to serve on a new board.

I figured, why not? I was on the board for about a year, and then they asked me to become the president, and the following year they asked me to become the director.

**SF:** How do BLF Canada and SF's visions and work complement each other?

**TB:** We need to remember that before SF there was BLF USA. And at the time we did not have a director in BLF Canada. So the director of SF (or previously BLF USA) was also serving as the interim director of BLF Canada.

So there is a connection right from the get-go between the two organizations. We also serve in very similar areas, whether in Europe or Africa or Haiti or any French-speaking country we can possibly impact.

**SF:** How is BLF Canada impacting the French-speaking world?

**TB:** Unlike the States or English-speaking Canada, in Quebec we want to establish radio stations.

Why? Because we want the Gospel to go out in the communities that do not have it. I was told fairly recently of a town called Winkler, Manitoba, that has about 10,000 people and 30 evangelical churches. In Quebec, we have 30 communities of 10,000 that

do not have a single Gospel witness.

So far, we have one radio station that has been planted in Brownsburg, Quebec, and we are aiming to have five more in the next couple of years.

**SF:** You've mentioned differences between BLF Canada and SF. What similarities do you see?

**TB:** We realize that the printed page is still king in many third-world countries. In Quebec, we may have all the modern technology of resources from the Bible on the computer or cell phone.

This is not the case in many other countries. Especially in the case of Haiti or Togo, we seek to provide packages of literature for pastors, so they have tools like Bible concordances, Bible dictionaries, and commentaries, which is very similar to what SF has been doing and continues to do. If we can form the pastors, then the churches will reap the benefits of the resources.

**SF:** Could you describe specific projects in which BLF Canada and SF have partnered?

**TB:** We were able to put funds raised in Canada together with funds raised through SF so that Sunday school material would be shipped from Europe all the way to the pastors in Haiti who would be distributing them.



Toe-Blake Roy  
Credit: Karin Wilcox

*Continued on opposite page*

## GOD IS BUILDING OUR TEAM

By: Angela Brandle

As our SF team grows, a pattern is emerging—God has chosen and brought each of our new team members through his carefully orchestrated meetings rather than by us looking for people. Karin Wilcox is the most recent example.

I met Karin at a conference in Ghana to train African Christian writers. Our international backgrounds and similar life experiences quickly led to mutual understanding and appreciation.

When SF wanted to make videos, I recalled seeing some Karin had produced. They impressed me.

Our Director of Communications reached out to Karin, and she gladly agreed to assist us, taking the lion's share of work to produce two excellent videos with minimal material.

When Karin heard about the FIT team preparing to go to France, she volunteered her time to join us as the designated videographer. God quickly provided her financial support, and in a matter of days, we made all the arrangements, including reserving the last seat on one of our trains and assigning her the last bed in our rented gîte. Not only did God want her as part



Credit: Karin Wilcox

of that team; during one of our conversations, it became clear that God had spoken to both of us at the same time about Karin joining the SF team as a part-time videographer/video editor.

Karin will undertake the essential roles of communicating with a new generation using a medium they relate to and building SF's media library.

But how could we afford another staff member, even part-time? Karin, who grew up in Germany as a "missionary kid" (MK), said she was willing to raise support.

After going through our application process, she joined the team in July while already working on videos to celebrate our jubilee. Karin also works as a professional opera singer and Lyft driver. She graciously offered her voice for ministry in France and for SF's 70th anniversary celebrations. Karin is married to fellow MK Jon.

We are asking God to build Karin's support team. If you would like to contribute, please visit [www.SynergieFrancophone.org/give](http://www.SynergieFrancophone.org/give).

**SF:** How have you seen God working through BLF Canada's partnership with SF?

**TB:** As an organization, BLF Canada is very much the little guy.

We can still benefit quite a bit from the experience of SF because they have a presence in a greater variety of places, and they have greater experience. We can be partnering in projects, but at the same time benefit from the experience of SF.

**SF:** How would you like to see SF and BLF Canada's relationship develop in the future?

**TB:** We have a camp near Lachute. SF sent a team this past summer (see "Camp des Îles Memories," p. 13), and it has been such a blessing to have their help to minister in the camp, and I hope that next year

God willing, we will have four teams from SF, a few in construction and a few ministering to the kids.

**SF:** How do you think BLF Canada and SF's relationship can grow even stronger?

**TB:** One of the things I have greatly appreciated is that a representative of SF, either Angela or Ray, has been very much willing to be part of our board meetings. We invite them to give a report of what is happening in SF, so that we know what either mission organization is involved in, to see if we can partner with them in a particular project or opportunity. So I am hoping to be able to strengthen that relationship.

*If you would like to join a trip to serve at Camp des Îles in Quebec, see the enclosed brochure.*



Credit: Angela Brandle

## FIT FOR SERVICE

By: Angela Brandle

SF's France Impressions Team (FIT) program resumed in a renewed form this past May. Thirteen people from five states, ranging in age from 16 to 80, came together for orientation over several weeks and then lived as a family for two weeks while serving with SF's partner, the Evangelical Printshop of the French Alps (Iméaf), near Montélimar, France. Trips to local sights taught us about King Louis XIV's attempts to eradicate Christians through persecution in this region from where, ironically, the most significant Christian print shop now ships Christian literature to the far-flung countries of the French-speaking world.

Our goals were to assist printing processes and spruce up the printshop's premises, serve alongside the local church, deepen our walk with God in a cross-cultural setting, and return to our churches with a renewed vision for local ministry and missions.

God met us at every level. As a team member remarked at our 3-D (Daily Devotional and Debriefing) meeting, "Has there been a day when we did not see God working?" God answered prayer again and again. As we labored together, we formed relationships

with Iméaf staff, church members, and visitors. At the end of our trip, we celebrated these new friendships at convivial outdoor picnics where we enjoyed local specialties. New friends at Iméaf hosted the first, and the second took place in some church members' garden after a service our team helped lead.

In six days, the team laid a new floor and painted the staff's break room, repaired plumbing and electrical fixtures, replaced what was worn out, and cleared the grounds of weeds and rocks. We helped to assemble and pack books, prepare shipments to SF's partners in Africa, and stuffed fliers and envelopes so that a mailing that normally takes a week was ready in two days!

Team members learned the many steps involved in making a book, gained a burden for the church in France, felt God's hand leading them forward in his mission, visited with Nathan and Annie Phillips, and added to their prayer list the need for books to reach those without them. And they want to go again!

*SF plans to send more FITs to France. Please see the enclosed brochure.*

## CAMP DES ÎLES MEMORIES

By: Rachel DeWitt, SF Board Member

Although I was excited about SF's Illuminate Quebec (IQ) trip to Camp des Îles, I was not expecting the countless precious memories I would take home with me, and how my life truly would be altered from this incredible experience. I never imagined that the deepest spiritual connections I would make with children would be in French!

On a rainy Saturday afternoon, my team and I landed in Montreal and then drove to Lachute. I was not expecting anything incredible to happen while we volunteered for a week, but the Lord surprised me in the best of ways. The camp week consisted of games, crafts, canoeing, rock-wall climbing, and archery, chapel time, meals, water games, and free time. With ten campers in total, we had the

opportunity to get to know the children and answer any questions they had. Through my studies of French, I was able to form a special bond with four exclusively francophone girls. Initially, I was nervous about my French abilities, as this was my first time in a francophone country. However, once I realized that the only way I could connect with these girls was through French, I began to let my fears go. Although I made some grammatical mistakes and didn't always know the correct vocabulary word, this didn't diminish the care I could show for these kids and my passion for helping them understand the Bible.

Whether you speak the same language as those you are trying to reach, or only a few words, God uses these efforts for his kingdom!



The IQ team: Dr. Amy Lynelle, Josie Myer, Sophie Strassheim, Fifi Shultz, Rachel DeWitt (left to right). Credit: Dr. Amy Lynelle

## MEET NEW BOARD MEMBER KEITH MYER

I grew up in small-town Indiana attending church with my family. Being afraid of going to hell, I prayed with my dad to accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior at about age eight. Most of my friends in middle and high school were professing Christians. I considered myself a Christian because I went to church and Bible camp, was active in youth group, and later attended Taylor University.

After graduation, I joined a college friend working for a company in Indianapolis. I started going to his church and small group where someone asked me about my relationship with Jesus. I was taken aback because I did not have an answer. The more I thought about it the more I questioned my relationship with Christ. Outwardly, I looked like a "Christian" (I didn't drink, swear, smoke, etc.), but inwardly I knew something was wrong. I realized that I didn't really have a relationship with Jesus. Meeting with this group and reading the Bible helped me learn that being a Christian is more than just being a good

person; it is having a personal relationship with Jesus daily.

I found a church home and joined a singles ministry that focused on having a relationship with Christ and became involved in service projects and short-term mission trips. I also met my future wife Amy there almost 14 years before we got married.

I now see how God led an eight-year-old child who accepted Jesus to become an adult who developed a passion for missions and serving others. I am grateful that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior and look forward to seeing how He will continue to work in and use me.



*Credit: Karin Wilcox*

*Keith Myer holds an MBA (Anderson University), a BS in Computer Science, and a minor in accounting (Taylor University). He has professional experience as a technical support analyst and is a board member of "Love at Work Ministries" in Indianapolis. His local church service includes missions work and leadership/ treasurer positions.*

### *Continued from page 6:* **SF's History in France**

centered calendars have made a way for the Gospel to reach homes that would ordinarily have been closed. Hundreds of thousands of devotionals and books also pass through the print shop, on their way to disciple the souls of French-speakers worldwide.

In looking towards the future, Nathan and Annie seek to root more deeply into the community and culture, getting more involved in their church's leadership, connecting their boys to Child Evangelism Fellowship, joining the PTA. "I feel like we're just from France now," Nathan said. They hope their rootedness will produce continued growth and an abundant harvest, a center for Gospel-infused words to scatter like seeds across the francophone world—and bear much fruit.

### *Continued from page 9:* **The Best Possible Time to Join**

it's a mission made possible with the limited resources each person offers to God, just as Jesus multiplied five loaves and two fish to feed thousands. Attending the quarterly meetings is less of a time-commitment and more of a "passion and prayer commitment," Lynn said.

Pam and Lynn are excited about future board members joining the team. Pam said she will miss "making things happen... But it is time to bring in some fresh blood." Lynn added, "This is maybe the best possible time to join [SF] because God has brought together resources and connections and... gifted people coming together like a puzzle to launch into just a huge period of growth and excitement."

## GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

By: Angela Brandle

About 100 people gathered in two Florida churches on August 24th and 25th to thank God for 70 years of his faithfulness and to pray for the building of our future work. Psalm 40:5 (NIV) set the tone for the evening: "Many, LORD my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us. None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare,".

To tell our story, new members of our team—sent to us by God at just the right moment—created videos from material given by older members of our team to show how God's hand has guided and provided all we have needed. The events exceeded our expectations!

At Fruit Cove Baptist Church near Jacksonville, pastors and young adults joined board members and some SF staff for a celebratory dinner. The following day, the pastors showed our introductory video to 4,000 people (in two services). Six Sunday school classes gave SF team members the full hour to share what God is doing in the 49 countries of the French-speaking world, the great needs for Bibles and Christian books, and the increasing opportunities to share them through our partners who are diligently presenting sound Gospel training to deepen the biblical roots of emerging churches and their leaders around the world.

Some faithful, long-time friends and supporters joined us in Minneola, as well as new people who met



Russ Miller talking to a guest at the celebration in St. Johns.  
Credit: Elise Tegegne

us for the first time. As we told the story of how God started this ministry through the Kroeker family, showed videos of our present work through our partners and teams, and received inspiring challenges for the future from long-time partner Alain Stamp, BLF Canada Director Toe-Blake Roy, and our SF Board President Ray Sanford, we could hear people's emotional reactions to what they saw and heard. As Pastor John Bopp of New Life Presbyterian Church prayed for the future ministry of SF, I was struck by how blessed SF and recipients of literature will be as God answers each of his bold requests over the years to come.

A professional accompanist for the hymns and beautiful renditions in French and English of "Give Me Jesus" and "It Is Well with My Soul" sung by SF videographer Karin Wilcox (who is also a professional opera singer!) fed our souls. One participant said, "God has painted my Sunday evening with a golden brush!" All glory to God for giving us great things to celebrate! Thank you, our readers and supporters, from the bottom of our hearts for your part in changing lives through our history of providing literature in French and for your prayers towards building our future. We appreciate you!

As together we continue to serve the French-speaking world that God loves, we look to Him for "Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow – Blessings all [ours], with ten thousand beside!"



Participants at the celebration in Minneola. Credit: Karin Wilcox

**Erratum:** The photo on page 6 of issue 4.1 of *Impressions* is not of BLF in Marpent but ELB in Belgium. We apologize for the error.

## WAYS TO SERVE GOD WITH SYNERGIE FRANCOPHONE:

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 US or Canada.

**Ambassadors in the US** to advocate for those without God's Word. Full or part time.

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

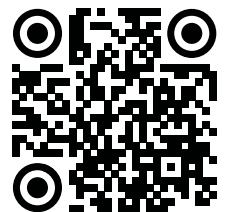
## JOIN A PROJECT | CHANGE A LIFE | GROW FRUITFULNESS



<b>A Bible That Makes Sense.</b> Give leaders and teachers study Bibles in French with articles and applications written by African theologians. <i>Thank you for meeting our first goal of 80 Bibles.</i> <b>New goal: \$2,000</b>	\$
<b>Adopt a Country.</b> Bring God's Word to people in various walks of life in one of the world's poorest countries, Burkina Faso. <b>Goal: \$15,000</b>	\$
<b>Adopt a High School.</b> \$900 will purchase and ship a library of 100 books for a high school in the DRC, which a chaplain will use to share the Gospel and disciple students. Smaller gifts welcome. <b>Goal: \$22,500 for phase 1</b>	\$
<b>Bible Distribution in the DRC.</b> Provide Bibles in French for churches and individuals without the Word of God. <b>Goal: \$18,000</b>	\$
<b>Beautiful Feet.</b> Empower Bible teachers with books in Africa, Haiti, and other countries to mentor and train leaders. <i>Thank you for funding shipments of hundreds of books for trainings in Benin, Togo, Burkina Faso, and the DRC.</i> <b>Goal: \$40,000</b>	\$
<b>Fill Their Shelves.</b> Supply books for libraries at Christian universities and Bible colleges overseas to help students understand, apply, and teach God's Word to others. <i>Thank you for funding mini libraries for 16 institutions.</i> <b>Goal: \$10,000</b>	\$
<b>Gospel Waves.</b> Help to share the Gospel in the Province of Quebec, Canada, by funding 100 Christian radio stations and the distribution of Christian literature. <b>Goal: \$6,000</b> for equipment, license, installation, and programming for one new station for one year.	\$
<b>Ministry's Essential Ingredient.</b> Make our ministry of the Word possible by helping cover our costs of part-time staff, services, postage, and supplies. <i>Thank you for starting a growth curve for ministry.</i> <b>Goal: \$20,000</b>	\$
<b>More than Surgery.</b> Give African missionary surgeons the spiritual "sword" to go with their scalpel by donating to biblical resource packs. <i>Thank you for equipping 60 new African surgical missionaries with books.</i> <b>Goal: \$2,000</b>	\$
<b>Read Right Now.</b> Help to install a print-on-demand center in Kinshasa, DRC, to print books for less without shipping expenses, a great way for new authors to get their books printed. <i>Thank you for funding Phase 1. Equipment/supplies purchased for set up. Thank you for helping raise \$22,000 towards \$60,000 needed for Phase 2</i>	\$
<b>Train the Teacher.</b> Allow new generations of children to learn God's ways with the reprinting of SF's Sunday School Curriculum. <b>Goal: \$10,000</b>	\$
<b>Where Most Needed.</b> We will direct your gift to where it will help the most.	\$
<b>Write Truth Right.</b> Help to train Christian journalists to influence readers for Christ through our partner Magazine Training International. <i>Thank you for meeting our first goal that enabled training.</i> <b>New goal: \$5,000</b>	\$
<b>Gospel Camp for Kids.</b> Support the renovation and ministry of Camp des Îles, reaching kids for Christ in Lachute, Quebec. <b>Goal: \$10,000</b>	\$
Missionary Support: Angela Brandle	\$
Missionary Support: Russ and Mary Ann Miller	\$
Missionary Support: Nathan and Annie Phillips	\$
Missionary Support: Karin Wilcox	\$

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



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