will remember that they stood to commit this next year of their lives to pursue training in ministry, that they might be better used in the furtherance of the kingdom of God. They will remember how God spoke to them there. I hope that France will yield 100 committed young Adventists where now there is but one.

And that we would hear of a new breed of fresh Blaise Pascals, for God only knows how much France needs them.

God, please set France ablaze with your Spirit and your Son.

*Pensée, Blaise Pascal

S ometimes we hear people say things like, “I need more of the Holy Spirit in my life” or “I want the fullness of the Spirit.” There is nothing directly wrong with this language, and yet it may evince a subtle danger in our thinking about the Holy Spirit. Sentiments like those above communicate, at some level, that we use the Spirit. If the Spirit were, as some suppose, merely a force, a power or some kind of divine energy, then perhaps this language and the underlying sentiments would be more acceptable, but this is not at all the case.

The Spirit is “the Third Person of the Godhead” (Ephesians 2:18), “the Spirit of the living God” (Romans 8:11), and “God’s Spirit” (Galatians 4:6). The Holy Spirit is not a power, but a person. He is to be used by Him, not by me. Please, Spirit, use me to accomplish your purposes on Earth. Amen.

To Use or Be Used?

By David Asscherick
Consider This . . .

The Holy Spirit has a personality, else He could not bear witness to our spirits and with our spirits that we are the children of God. He must also be a divine person, else He could not search out the secrets which lie hidden in the mind of God. “For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God.”

Ellen G. White, Manuscript Releases, Vol. 7, No. 487

MISSION UPDATE

When Will France Blaise Us Again?

By Jeffrey Rosario

In order that the work may go forward in all its branches, God calls for youthful vigor, zeal and courage. He has chosen the youth to aid in the advancement of His cause. To plan with clear mind and execute with uncrippled energies . . . that through the exercise of their powers, through keen thought and vigorous action, they may bring glory to Him and salvation to their fellow-men” (Gospel Workers, p. 67).

“We are to co-operate with the highest powers in heaven, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, and these powers will work through us, making us workers together with God.”

Ellen G. White, Special Testimonies for Ministers and Workers, Series B, No. 7, p. 51. (1905)

The Comforter that Christ promised to send after He ascended to heaven, is the Spirit in all the fullness of the Godhead, making manifest the power of divine grace to all who receive and believe in Christ as a personal Saviour. There are three living persons of the heavenly trio; in the name of these three great powers—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—those who receive Christ by living faith are baptized, and these powers will co-operate with the obedient subjects of heaven in their efforts to live the new life in Christ.

Ellen G. White, Special Testimonies for Ministers and Workers, Series A, No. 10, p. 37

Thankfully, God is ready to this need. Though few in number, there is a new wave of on fire Adventist young people there, and they are beginning to make some noise. A group of nine young adults recently organized a late October convocation. I was invited to participate and present at the gathering. The location they were providentially led to was Clermont-Ferrand in central France. This is highly significant. When I learned of the location, it occurred to me that this town’s legacy hinted at what God was up to.

Clermont-Ferrand is the birthplace of the French mathematician and physicist Blaise Pascal, who was born nearly four hundred years ago. He is widely considered one of the great figures in Western intellectual history. He invented the calculating machine while still a teenager, the barometer, the hydraulic press, the syringe and is also credited with inventing the wristwatch. But he was so much more than an inventor. He was a brilliant and creative mathematician, and is regarded as the founder of probability and statistic theory. His many contributions have made a significant impact in the world.

But, all this aside, the most impressive thing about him was that he was a young man who was on fire for the Gospel. Having had a dramatic encounter with God (what he afterward would always refer to as his “night of fire”), he was able to use his influence to bear testimony to the world. He wrote that, “There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ.” His life and legacy has set many hearts ablaze for God and has inspired Christian thinkers for four centuries. And this little, seemingly unimportant town in central France was his stomping grounds.

I would’ve predicted. (Thank you Jesus for the rebuke and the inspiration!) After it was all over, Tiphaine, a 23-year-old student, and one of the key leaders, said, “This has been the most Spirit-filled and powerfully reviving Youth Congress I have been to yet.”

And she’s not alone on that.

Those young people will remember this conference. They will remember the closing day when people were led to their knees, weeping and pleading with God for revival. They

Report from France’s Youth Revival—Génération de Jeunes Pour Christ

was attended by up to 180 people representing nearly ten countries including Switzerland, The Netherlands, Norway, Germany, Portugal and, of course, France. The attendees were encouraged to participate in an outreach effort in the town center to invite people to a Health Expo. Their efforts brought over 200 people to the program! (Confession: this was much more than I expected.) Along with the Health Expo, there was an evangelistic presentation and a concert that were both geared toward the community. All this resulted in some 75 contacts that will be followed up in the months to come, 75! That’s at least 65 more than I would’ve predicted. (Thank you Jesus for the rebuke and the inspiration!)

When Will France Blaise Us Again? Continued on p. 4 . . .

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