



Dear Praying Friend,

March 2010 Note from the Allardice family in France.

Over the past seven years I have had my coffee at the nearby McDonald's on innumerable occasions. At the beginning I always left tracts which later opened conversations about the Lord. One of the longtime workers is a Jehovah's Witness who is a former Hindu. This last time I had my coffee, she asked me some very solid questions about truth and how to find it. I was able to explain to her the truth, Bible open. I offered to come to her home and explain the Gospel to her and her husband, also a Jehovah's Witness and former Hindu. Then I went home and returned with some helpful literature. Pray for them.

The Feb. 28, 2010 Argentan meeting went very well, although not well attended. There were 8 people besides the missionaries. Several people called to say that they could not come and the storm kept one lady from coming. We met at a restaurant for a dessert and then the Gospel was announced sitting around the table. Two retired ladies were very interested. Gene Mumford and me answered the questions of Monique and Sophie answered the questions of Margarite. Pray for these two ladies. Nearly all of the people asked us to move back to Argentan. I did not commit myself. From Argentan, Sophie and I went to the city of Tours for two days. In our prayer we are asking the Lord to open the doors widely or to firmly shut them.

Tours being a large city, there are already some "evangelical" churches in and around the city. Together they make up a more or less united group. Including the suburbs, the local fellowship includes 3 Pentecostal denominations, one charismatic church, one Baptist church becoming a charismatic church, the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventists, the traditional Huguenot "Eglise Réformée" and two or three non-denominational churches. The pastors range theologically from believers to liberals. Together, they have had a joint "protestant" church service. Together, the churches have had joint activities and evangelism with the Roman Catholic Church. I was told in a friendly manner by one of the "believing" pastors that if I intend to come to Tours and disturb the equilibrium that it would be best to not come at all. While visiting with the Baptist pastor this past week, we were told that the relations between the city government and the churches were very cold, almost hostile. The two pastors with whom I spoke told me that there is no evangelism taking place at this time. We are sad that those who might have been our friends are instead "the back-to-Rome crowd".

On the other hand, as we seek to know the Lord's will, I wrote a bold letter about a month ago to the Mayor of Tours asking for a meeting to present our missionary project for Tours. We have specific ideas in mind and wanted to know if the city was going to present opposition (as the city of Argentan had done) or if it would be "open". The Mayor's right-hand man and his secretary received Sophie and me. We were well received. We had a very nice conversation. They told us that our letter had really caught their attention, in the positive sense, and asked us what we wanted and what they could do for us. Although they said it would be unlikely that they could find us any meeting places, they told us that they would nevertheless look into finding something. [A meeting place is very important!]

Pray for us to make the right decisions.

Yours in Christ,

Billy and Sophie Allardice

(PS: We are still making furlough plans. If you want us at a Mission Conference in 2010-2011, please contact us.)

Here are some statistics taken from Wikipedia. According to the 2010 census, there are nearly 600,000 people in the county. Most of the towns which are listed below are part of the Tours agglomeration. The population of each town is given.

<a href="#">Tours</a> : 139,958	<a href="#">Joué-lès-Tours</a> <sup>(en)</sup> : 36,439	<a href="#">Saint-Cyr-sur-Loire</a> <sup>(en)</sup> : 16,422	<a href="#">Saint-Pierre-des-Corps</a> <sup>(en)</sup> : 16,058	<a href="#">Saint-Avertin</a> <sup>(en)</sup> : 14,455
<a href="#">Amboise</a> : 12,929	<a href="#">Fondettes</a> <sup>(en)</sup> : 10,399	<a href="#">Chambray-lès-Tours</a> <sup>(en)</sup> : 10,980	<a href="#">Montlouis-sur-Loire</a> <sup>(en)</sup> : 10,672	<a href="#">La Riche</a> <sup>(en)</sup> : 10,152
<a href="#">Chinon</a> : 8,663	<a href="#">Ballan-Miré</a> <sup>(en)</sup> : 7,801	<a href="#">Monts</a> : 7,090	<a href="#">Loches</a> : 7,076	<a href="#">Veigné</a> <sup>(en)</sup> : 6,076
<a href="#">Château-Renault</a> : 5,307	<a href="#">Bléré</a> : 5,134	<a href="#">Luvnes</a> <sup>(en)</sup> : 5,140	<a href="#">La Ville-aux-Dames</a> <sup>(en)</sup> : 4,864	<a href="#">Esvres</a> : 4,510