



The skyline of Europe is dotted with steeples. But many of the beautiful buildings underneath those steeples have been converted into museums, art galleries, and restaurants. And the remaining places of worship are often empty, cold, and full of meaningless traditions. But look beyond the landmarks of the institutional churches and see where the seeds of the gospel have fallen. Look in the store fronts, the schools, the homes. It is a new day among European peoples. New life is taking form.

New Life in France

"You won't believe what I did today!" Damien said to his wife one spring afternoon. He went on to tell her about chatting in a local café with a new friend. He and this friend discussed life, God, the Bible, and more. In public. With complete strangers at neighboring tables.

French culture dictates that religion and all thoughts of God are private matters to be completely walled-off from everyday life and public appearance. So Damien's experience in the café wasn't just different. It was counter-cultural.



His conversation in the cafe began a journey of discovery where Damien came to life, real life in Christ. At his baptism, he stood knee-deep in a portable backyard pool telling of God's faithfulness. He wasn't alone in the water. Baptized a few months before, Cyril wanted to participate in this celebration with his friend. He jumped in and joined a group of brothers to baptize Damien.

The church in France was long ago separated from the public eye. But today, one conversation at a time, faith is finding its way back into everyday life.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." (1 Cor. 5:17 [ESV]).

1 LAST FRONTIER. Pray for some of our workers who are trying something new and different. The area where they will attempt this isn't a safe place because authorities do not want this kind of activity to occur. Pray for God's protection and guidance.

2 KENYA. Pray for the Nairobi Student Team as they seek to expand to multiple campuses and partner with their Kenyan brothers and sisters in this endeavor. Pray students grow in their knowledge of the Lord and their obedience to him.

3 GERMANY. In Dresden—home of the Reformation but now a stronghold of atheism—a Baptist church without a building or paid staff has its sights set on planting more new churches. Pray for vision, courage, and open hearts.

4 ROHINGYA REFUGEES. Pray for a Christian who is a leader among the Rohingya and is facing significant persecution. Ask that God's plans will continue unhindered.

5 MALTA. God has chosen to work through the difficult circumstances of epilepsy to direct workers into a whole new world of people, and he's provided multiple opportunities to plant seeds of Truth.

6 TURKS OF THE BALKANS. Pray for Met,* a new Christian. Shortly after coming to faith, he had to have his leg amputated. Pray that he will continue in discipleship and growth.

7 CENTRAL ASIA. Divisions and untruths are seeping into a church. Pray that the Lord will show the truth to all involved and that there will be humility among them.

8 THE BALKANS. Businessmen from partner churches in the United States are opening businesses to provide jobs and share the gospel. Pray with the local team as they work together for opportunities to share with people in various industries.

9 SOUTH ASIA. Through videos, testimonies, and Scripture in their heart language, followers of Christ hope to connect with South Asian seekers online. Pray for connections to be made.

10 TAIWAN. Pray for deepening cooperation among the pastors here. Pray that they will work together with Southern Baptist teaching pastors who want to help revitalize Taiwanese churches.

11 CROATIA. A century ago, the Croatian church began, surrounded by empty ritual and false traditions. After Communist rule ended, the church grew quickly. Croatian Christians today have strong faith but shallow roots. Pray for the church here.

12 AMERICAN PEOPLES. Pray for the student missionaries serving throughout the Americas this summer. Ask the Lord to use local pastors and student leaders to impart a passion for God's glory among the nations in the current generation.

13 SWEDEN. About once a month, Stockholm's Groove music scene holds a concert in a local café. Pray for good conversations at these concerts and follow-up meetings that lead to Jesus.

14 MADAGASCAR. Pray for missionaries doing leadership development and theological training. Pray that they will remain faithful in sharing the gospel and encouraging the church.

15 ARABS OF SYRIA. God is gathering groups of Arabic-speaking Christians to be trained in how to share their faith. Pray that these believers will see many come to Jesus.

16 GERMANY. Across the street from a dying church in Uerdingen, IMB missionaries are sowing gospel seeds through English conversation and breakfast groups. Pray for key contacts and the planting of a new church.



Local restaurants in Uerdingen, Germany.

17 **INDIA.** Keith* is a Muslim lawyer who reads the gospel but refuses to believe the truth of salvation. Pray that he will trust the one true God and that his influence can be used for the advance of the kingdom.

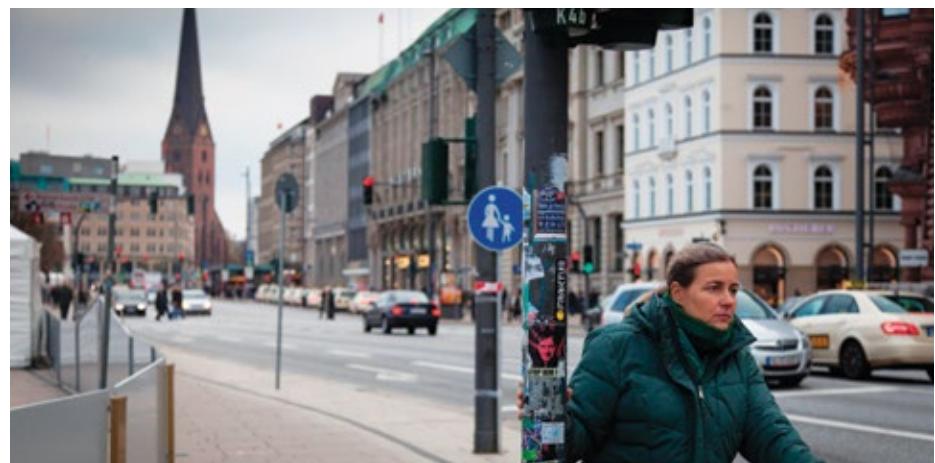
18 **EASTERN EUROPE.** A pastor partnering with IMB workers shared that his church would like to see a new church start in the next year. Pray for new beginnings.

19 **CHINA.** Pray for leaders to grow not only in their knowledge of God's Word as they receive training, but also in their obedience to it. May their faith be evident in all they do.

20 **DEAF PEOPLES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.** Pray for workers as they seek to mobilize Deaf Christians, share the gospel with the lost, and plant churches among Deaf peoples. Ask that they will work together and support each other as a team.

21 **AUSTRIA.** The beautiful church buildings in Vienna are empty. Christianity has largely disappeared. Pray for IMB workers as they help one of the dying local churches restart in two areas of the city.

22 **SOUTH ASIA.** Pray for a Brazilian medical doctor and her husband who serve in a South Asian country that is closed to a traditional gospel witness. Pray that the light of the gospel will



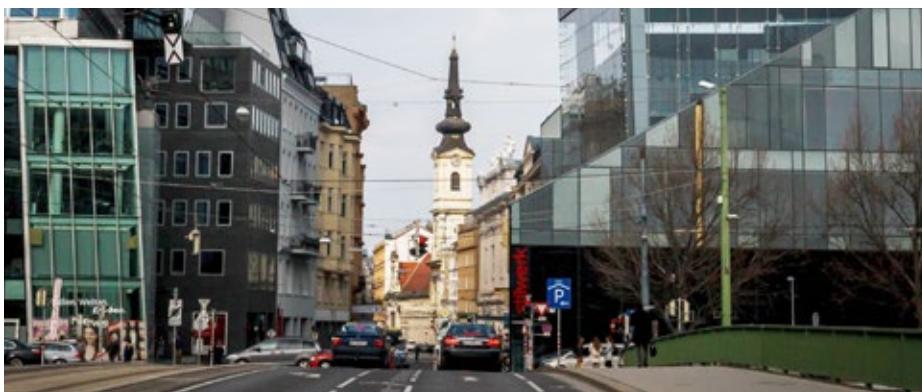
Hamburg, Germany.

penetrate that spiritually dark country.

23 **EUROPEAN PEOPLES.** In the Black Sea Orthodox region, churches are being planted and are growing. A recent church start has already outgrown its space. Another has searched for a new place for three years. Pray for wisdom in how and where to plant many more churches.

24 **SOUTH AFRICA.** Pray that God-called Pedi men will sense and answer the call to serve in vocational ministry. Pray for the Pedi pastors who are standing for truth.

25 **SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.** Missionaries Mike and Julie Pineda recently moved to Uganda to provide leadership to the IMB teams in northern Uganda, South Sudan, and Chad. Lift them up as they acclimate to a new job, city, and culture.



Buildings in Vienna, Austria.

26 **GERMANY.** Church planters in Hamburg work to plant new churches where the existing churches are dead or dying, hoping to reawaken the German people to their rich gospel heritage. Pray for life to once again fill German churches.

27 **THAILAND.** Pray for Sam* and Nancy,* faithful Thai missionaries to the Northern Thai people. Pray for their perseverance in ministry. Ask the Lord to send church-planting partners and disciples to join them.

28 **EUROPEAN PEOPLES.** Workers in Brazil found a small Baptist church that has reopened where some of the Calon people live. The pastor has agreed to hold services for them. Pray for the church to look beyond traditional methods in sharing the gospel. Pray for the Calon!

29 **NORTH AFRICAN & MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES.** Pray for refugees and displaced people. Pray that they will hear about Jesus's love for them and the hope that he brings, even when days are bleak.

30 **GUINEA.** Albert* chose to follow Christ only a few years ago. Pray for his young faith to remain strong in the face of persecution. Pray for the few faithful Christians in his village.



Spiritual Seekers in Portugal

We met Cristina, invited her to read Bible stories with us, and discussed a simple set of questions. She was excited as she learned about Jesus and decided to follow him. This kind of discovery Bible study is where Christians introduce people with spiritual interests to the Bible and talk about its message.

Many Portuguese are hesitant to visit a church, but have spiritual interests and are willing to read the Bible and discuss it with a friend. As we've trained Portuguese in sharing their faith, about thirty groups

have started, most seeing at least one person come to Christ. Some groups filtered into existing churches, while some have become long-term discipleship groups on their way to becoming a church.

One college group began as this kind of discovery group. Over time, students made decisions to follow Christ and invited others to the group, as well as serving each other. This group joined with another for an Easter celebration service. Pray that a church will form from these two groups and others like them.

EUROPE

IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE TO REACH THE 99 PERCENT OF EUROPEANS WHO DON'T HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS. YET WE LABOR IN JOYFUL ANTICIPATION THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL STIR THE HEARTS OF EUROPEANS ONCE AGAIN.



Learn more about the IMB's work among European peoples at IMB.org/Europe.

*Names changed

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