

# The Flowers

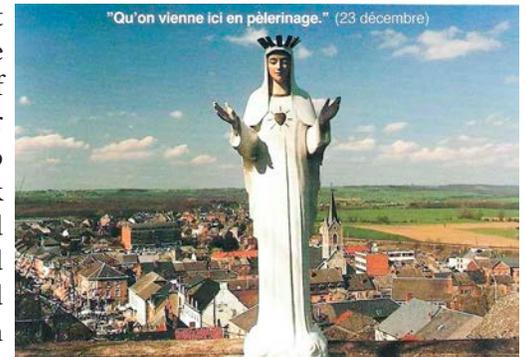
Church Planting in Charleville-Mézières, France

December 31, 2017

Dear Supporting Friends,

It is a shock to close the books on 2017. The days and weeks seem to move faster and faster. For some people that might be a sign of old age, but that could never happen to us—could it?

At the end of November, we partnered with our friends from the Hièrges church for a missions emphasis project. We crossed the Belgian border near their church into the town of Beauraing. This area is special in Belgium because it is said that the Virgin Mary made physical appearances there. The story is that between November 29, 1932, and January 3, 1933, Mary appeared to five different children. The Catholic church officially recognized the site due to these “supernatural” events and the testimonies of the children. Because of this, statues of Mary are more numerous in Beauraing than in any regular town. Little altars to her can be found in private yards and are built into the exterior of homes. There is even a boutique where statues or good luck charms can be purchased. The people are, to say the least, quite dedicated to her. So it was in this town and an adjacent village that we distributed 1,200 Gospel tracts. We love going into places that are seemingly closed to our witness because we never know what God might do. Europe is in spiritual darkness. Please pray for these efforts to help souls to the Light.



Our church's village ministry around Charleville-Mézières continues to move forward in spite of the winter weather. In the past months we have covered 12 villages. Yvernaumont, for example, is a speck on the map with 137 locals while Francheville (pop. 10,000) is more of a town than a true village. Regardless, each home received a tract as well as an invitation to our church. The spring will bring better weather and many more opportunities. Thank you to those who sent funds for the printing of necessary materials. We are confident God will bless your investment.

In December we had 10 guests come for our special Christmas service. For most of them, it was the first time they had heard the Gospel. It is an important first step, but we don't want it to end there. Please pray for these friends, all of them connections through basketball, that God will work on their hearts and draw them to Himself.

As 2017 ends, we give thanks to God for your faithfulness to support and pray for us. We appreciate the cards and messages that many of you send. Thank you also to each church and individual who remembered our family at Christmas. We are blessed to partner with you.

In Christ,

*Danny Flowers*

Danny & Janice Flowers  
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