



THE FOREIGN FIELD AND THE FAMILIAR STORY

The trip was not so long as far, remarked
The fledging missionary who debarked
Into a world quite different from his own,
Rather inferior compared to home.
“They do things different here and lack the light
That helps a people think and act a-right.
What poverty! What filthiness around!
And how ridiculous I find the sound
Of the creatures in this inn,
Who am used to seraphim.”

He learned the Scriptures in their native tongue
And did his best from youth to be among
The lost, blind, and lame in all walks of life.
Tho’ oft accused of stirring up the strife
Unwanted by the rulers of the land,
Who thought it in their power to command
His silence, banishment, or even death,
He spoke. And even to his dying breath,
Lived as a perfect Jew
To save the likes of you.

Support was low at times, and housing, well,
Had more the flavor and the stench of hell
For one so rich, so white, so upper class—
It’s hard to think he lived among the crass
That he was served by our humanity.
The years he spent among us: thirty-three,
And not a single furlough did he take;
His loving father even did forsake
His missionary son,
But, oh, how we have won.

And so he died away from home, buried
On the foreign field. Some might have worried
That his work was all in vain, rejected
As he was by people unaffected
By his truth and love and sacrifice. Yet
All went as planned from the very outset
As God saw fit, in bringing sons and him
To glory, to use this story. So then
“As the Father has sent me,”
It is your turn to be
The Christmas story.

After a super September, it's been a full fall. We were very thankful for the wonderful time spent in California during the month of September, for the joy of seeing our boys Simeon and Etienne surrounded by grandparents, aunts and uncle, and the kindness of our church and many other hosts. Now, we are thankful that God has brought us back to Toulouse to carry on the work here.

**DATES AND EVENTS REGARDING MISSIONARY LIFE IN FRANCE
THAT REJOICE US, REWARD US, AND REMIND US THAT OTHERS ARE PRAYING
FOR AND SUPPORTING US:**

Oct 1 - MISSIONARY CONFERENCE. Numerous missionaries, a good series of messages, and a growing missionary vision in the church.

Oct 7 - SATURDAY BIBLE SCHOOL. EFESE enters into its 3rd year; the students and professors are well-disposed.

Oct 11 - THREE-YEAR WEDDING ANNIVERSARY. The missions-enabling, culturally-sensitive, grammar-correcting help that Rebecca offers is immeasurable; missions in France would be so much harder without her, and maintaining a family would be impossible.

Oct 30 - Nov 3 - YOUTH CAMP. Several unbelieving friends invited by kids in the church; for some, the first time holding a Bible in their hands; marvelous weather; a healthy dose of teaching and a pertinent call to be one of those "vessels of honor, sanctified, useful to the Master" that Paul speaks of.

Nov 12 - A TRIP TO THE PARIS AREA to speak to an annual youth gathering, this year held in Saint Denis; encouraging times with these brothers and sisters in Christ; a call to love truth in an age of falsehood and fiction.

In all this, we rejoice to see individual lives being changed and God's word standing true.

Most of all, we are thankful for the perfect missionary, Jesus-Christ, sent into our world to bring us light and life. May God help us to serve according to his example.

God rest ye merry,

The Niblocks