



# LE TOUR DE FRANCE '23

## Stage I: Paris: June 12-14

Acclimation is important when traveling internationally; there are physical adjustments to jetlag, cultural differences, and exhaustion from travel in general. We spent two days in Paris to acclimate and prepare ourselves spiritually. We were able to spend time in the Word & pray as a team, sightsee, walk, eat, and repeat. Seeing the Eiffel Tower at night is always a highlight.

PRAY for open doors in Paris, to date this is an area where we have not established any ministry connections. It is interesting that Paris is referred to as the "city of lights" or the "city of love" but seems void of true light and true love.



(L to R) Coreen, Daniel, CeCe & Joshua at the Arc De Triomphe.



Pics (clockwise):

- Enjoying an “American” breakfast in Paris
- Eiffel Tower
- Notre Dame Cathedral (2019 fire destroyed spiral tower)
- Exploring the streets of Paris, picking up lunch (baguette sandwiches)



## Stage II: Alsace (Kilstett/Strasbourg)

Next stop on Le Tour de France is Kilstett, located on the eastern border of France & Germany. Kilstett is in the Alsace region, just north of Strasbourg. In 2016 Daniel and Coreen met Jean & Sophia through Airbnb. It was a divine intervention as both are believers and have been involved on the missions committee at their church. Jean has been instrumental in connecting us with ministry partners in southern France. They have a special place in their heart for neighborhood outreach. We have been able to share about our culture with unbelieving neighbors and friends which have led to the question of religion. Those conversations have opened doors to share about our hope in Christ. We have specifically built a relationship with Jean's childhood BFF, Denny. Although he has not received the gift of salvation we continue to keep Denny in prayer. A highlight of our time with Jean was canoeing on the Ill.

PRAY for Sophia. After contracting COVID in 2022 she has had major health problems that have caused her to be hospitalized several times. There is no known cause aside from ongoing COVID effects. It is hard to see her suffer physically and we pray for God's mercy and healing.

**JUNE 14-17**

Walking to the neighbors (Denny) with Jean.



Pics (clockwise):

- Joshua, Daniel, Denny & Jean (pray for Denny's spiritual & physical heart)
- Joshua & Daniel being goofballs in Strasbourg
- Romanian refugees are common on the streets of France
- A special dish in the Alsace region of France, spaetzle



Canoeing and exploring with Jean along the Ill (eel)!



## Stage III: Germany (Black Forest, Kandern)

Germany! We were able to visit Alex & Tanya Widmer who were both born and raised in southwest Germany. Alex has a desire to serve Native Americans through IBC and has provided some admin support to IBC. In previous trips we have been able to share about our culture in his World Religions class at a public school. Our hope was to return to the classroom, but unfortunately the door was not open this year. However, our time with Alex & Tanya was fruitful and encouraging. We joined a German Church service in Lörach, where we shared our mission to France with some parishioners. They were curious about us and asked questions about our culture. It turns out the elder couple served in ministry in Taiwan to the sweat shop workers. It was fascinating to hear their hearts and how the Lord worked in and through that ministry from which they have since retired. The pastor of the church invited us to make a return visit and share with the congregation about N2F.

One of our favorite German customs is kaffee & kuchen. This is a daily afternoon social time to sit back and enjoy coffee, cake and conversation between two and five o'clock. Of course you have to order a slice of black forest cake...in the Black Forest! After our kaffee & kuchen we took a nice hike through the Black Forest and filled our water bottles from a natural spring!

PRAY for Alex (& his wife Tanya) as he continues to seek God's will in his involvement with IBC. Pray for the opportunity to build a relationship with the church we visited.

**JUNE 17-20**

The team with Alex & Tanya overlooking Germany, France & Switzerland!



Pics (clockwise):

- Visiting the church in Lörach (2 pics)
- Hiking the Black Forest
- Visiting a castle
- Daniel & Joshua locked up in the pillory



# Stage IV: French Alps (Grenoble, Camp Des Cimes)

Grenoble has become a familiar area for us as we have been visiting and partnering in ministry with Roy & Jennifer Nagelkirk since 2016. This summer we were able to attend a gathering at their church to share our stories, our culture and our work at Indian Bible College. We were thankful for the opportunity to build these relationships that enrich Roy & Jennifer's ministry.

In addition to the special church gathering, we traveled to the beautiful French Alps to Camp Des Cimes. The camp is "a haven in France for God to save the lost and strengthen the found." We arrived earlier than the start of camp season so we spent our time serving. We completed work projects around camp, moving dirt piles, putting together snack bags, prepping for a concrete wall, saw sharpening, organizing a workshop and more. The camp is breathtaking and we were blessed to have these special work days as they prepare to reach French youth for Christ.

**JUNE 20-23**



# Work projects around Camp Des Cimes



(2) pics - sharing with the church in Grenoble  
(1) pic - overlook from the top of the Alps



# Stage V: Spain (Catalan, Camp l'Arcada)

In 2019 Daniel & Coreen had a unique opportunity to travel to Spain and serve at Camp l'Arcada in the Catalan region. Like much of Europe, Spain is a country in great spiritual need and atheism is widely embraced. The camp mission is to "create a special environment by developing different events, camps and conference centers, of great capacity, where people hear, see and experience Jesus Christ."

The pinnacle of camp season is "Indios Camp" where American Indians are highlighted. The hope of the camp is to bring in "real" American Indians to share the hope of Jesus through the fascination of our culture. We were able to take Joshua and CeCe to visit the camp and meet the new camp directors. Our hope is to build a partnership with the camp and send students to serve and carry out their mission.

**JUNE 23-24**



The team having dinner with previous Camp l'Arcada director Jordi & his wife Bern

Pics (clockwise):

- Visiting the historic city of Girona
- Visiting Camp l'Arcada with new directors Anne & Jose



# Stage VI: Basque Country (Saint Laurent de Gosse)

This was our first visit to the Basque country of France and it was a highlight. We connected with Barnard and Evangeline who are reaching the Basque people through various ministries; one being prison ministry. The hospitality of this family was a true reflection of the Body of Christ, they hosted us, fed us and took us around the area. We had unique opportunities to pray together, like praying over the Basque from a high vantage point. We also visited the Surf Church, which was started out of prayer for the surfers that visit from all over the world.

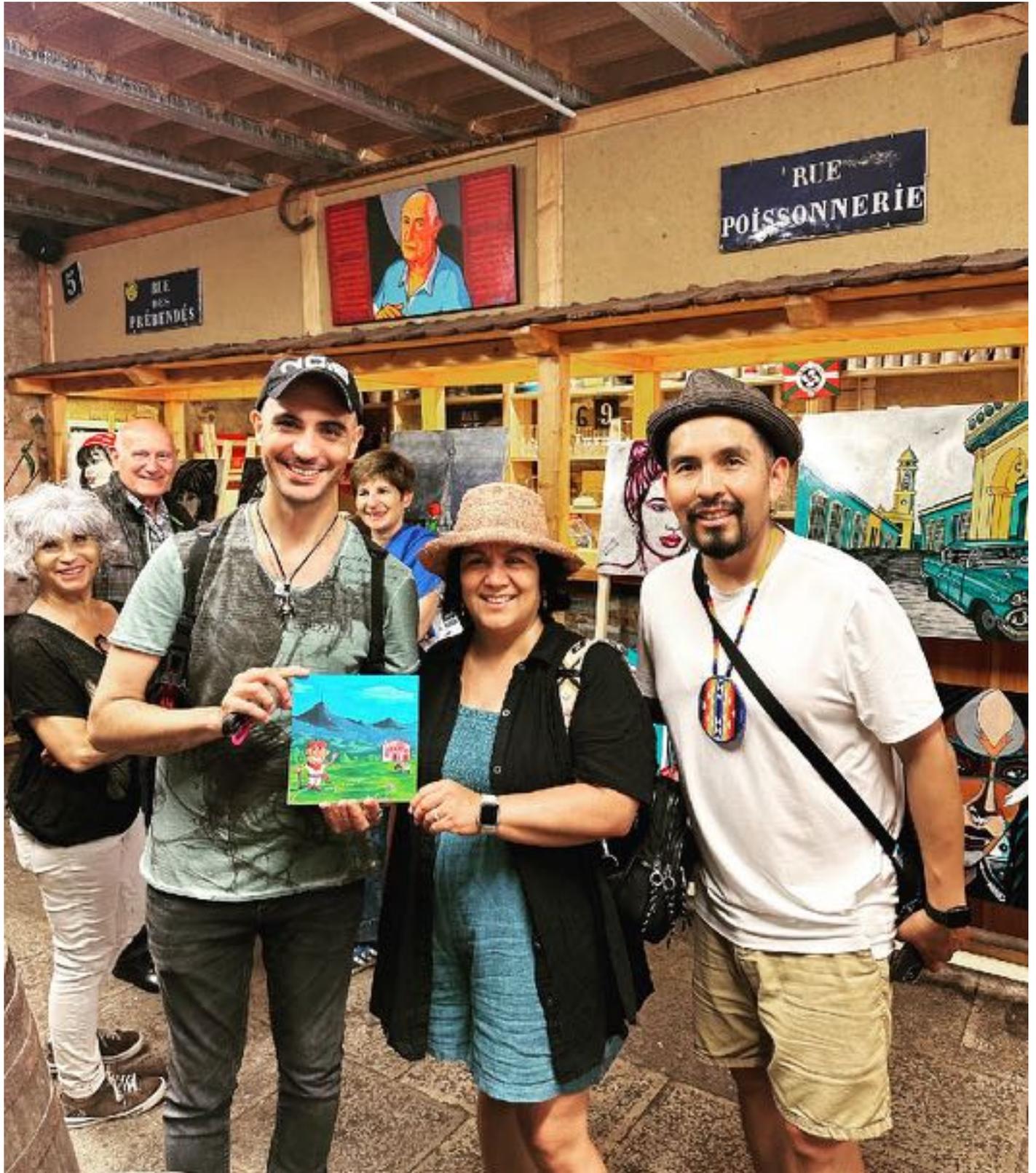
The Basque have so many similarities to Native American culture. They claim to be the original inhabitants of France and Spain, speak their own language, and have animistic beliefs. "You are not in France or Spain, you are in Basque Country." They have a fascination with Native American religion, especially shamanism. This opened up unique opportunities to share our hope in Jesus. One of these opportunities took place at an art gallery. We met the owner who was enamored with us being Native, and was adamant about hearing more of shamanism. She had even recently completed a painting of a Cheyenne woman. Our hosts were able to share the gospel as a result of her curiosity. They were amazed at the ease of this open door as it has been a closed door in the area. The hope is for us to return and host an event where we can share about our culture and lead the conversation to the gospel.

**JUNE 24-27**



**Bernard & Evangeline with their extended family**

Art Gallery in Bayonne  
(pic with owner's son (owner to the left with grey hair))



Pics (clockwise):

- Daniel making fry bread for Indian tacos
- Prepping tacos & visiting
- Praying with Bernard & Evangeline
- Praying over Bayonne/Basque on the overlook



Pics (clockwise):

- Sightseeing in Bayonne
- Surf Church



## Stage VII: Normandy (Mont-Saint-Michel/D-Day)

Final leg of the trip! It is important to not just know the people of France but the history of the country. We were able to spend a day and a half in Normandy. We visited Mont-Saint-Michel, a "holy island" monastery commune. It is a "Christian pilgrimage site dating back to the early 8th century, when Aubert, bishop of the nearby hilltop town of Avranches, claimed that the Archangel Michael himself had pressured him into having a church built atop the island just out to sea." It is an unforgettable sight.

Taking the team to sightsee at Omaha Beach, the D-Day museum and the American cemetery was moving. It is hard not be touched by the history of what took place on D-Day.

**JUNE 27-29**



Pics (Top to Bottom):

- D-Day memorial
- Omaha Beach



Pics (clockwise):

- American Cemetery (2 pics)
- Museum overlooking Omaha Beach



# FINALE: TEAM TESTIMONIES

## **CeCe:**

This was my first overseas trip and I am glad I got to experience such a wonderful opportunity. I may have not been fully prepared for the culture shock, but it was still interesting seeing how French people lived and socialized. I was not as prepared with communication in France but did my best to interact with almost everyone I met. I felt like God created special moments to get to know specific people. I appreciated the friends we met along the way. They were kind, hospitable, and loved to share their talents and the subjects they are learning.

During our time in France, I saw God working mostly in the people. It was during a conversation that I learned that there were things I needed to lament over. This was not just for me but encouraged me to lament with others and the team. I was encouraged by our French brothers and sisters and the faith they expressed when in the midst of adversity. I am grateful to have had this opportunity to be a part of the lives of and pray with the people we met with. The Lord has saved a special place for them in my heart.

## **Joshua:**

France continues to hold a special place in my heart. The people and the language are the two aspects that most intrigue me. I am drawn to the people because of their perception on life and I am drawn to the language because of its fluidity and beauty; and it helps me see the world from a French perspective. Although I will never fully know and understand what it means to be French, I am thankful for the experience of having visited the location. During the trip, God spoke to me in a way that was direct, honest and firm, in regard to my future and grieving process. "Finish what you started" was the summary of my prayers answered. The visit to France and the other locations helped me see and hear this more clearly. I am thankful for the visits we had that encouraged me to continue to pray for those in the French mission field. I am thankful for the team who inspired me to look beyond myself, continue to share and move with the pain of loss, and laugh through the process, when it is appropriate of course.

## **Coreen:**

This year's trip gave me a deeper glimpse of God's work through us and his calling in starting this ministry. I had many "aha" moments with language, culture and our unique opportunities as Natives. I believe the consistency of our trips is bearing fruit. This is happening through the ministry partnerships we continue to develop and the open doors of curiosity in sharing our culture. I am amazed with God's plan and purpose and how he has redeemed the shame I have felt being Native by embracing my identity. "Vive la France"

## **Daniel:**

France is one of the top countries to see castles in Europe. For hundreds of years, these fortified structures have withstood the test of time. The primary purpose of a castle was to protect the people living inside from attacking armies. As such, castles were designed with defense in mind. Many castles had multiple layers of walls, gates and moats, all in an effort to slow down attackers. Local French believers tell us that less than 1% of France's population are actively following Christ, and this tells me the French have built a "spiritual castle" to keep out God's love. This recent trip to France is like taking a small step toward recapturing the hearts of people for Jesus. It will take time but we are already seeing God open doors in building relationship with French people.

# LE TOUR DE FOOD



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