

Mehl Newsletter

From John, Susan, Katrina, Louisa & Ted Mehl
LCMS World Mission
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POITIERS - Brent Smith and John recently traveled to Poitiers, France with the president of the French Lutheran Church, Rev. Jean Haessig, to consider a proposal to begin Lutheran outreach activities in this ancient city.



About 180,000 people live in and around Poitiers. The Christian history here dates back to the early church. The building you see in the photo on the left is the Baptistery of St. John. The baptismal pool inside dates from the fourth century while the building which covers the pool is young in comparison, only dating from the eleventh century. It was here that catechumens were baptized for centuries in Poitiers. It has long ceased being used for its original purpose and stands now as a museum with an entrance fee of about a dollar.

The baptistery is quite symbolic of the secular society in Poitiers. While there are boasts of 100 church steeples in the city, the churches are largely ignored. They are history. This baptistery will likely never be used again for baptisms, but that doesn't mean there is not need for baptism in Poitiers. There is.

"Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call'" (Acts 2:38-39).

The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off... Stay tuned to see what the French Lutheran Church and LCMS World Mission decide on how to work in Poitiers.

FROM TED - This year has gone well in school, although I did learn that we won't be here next year. Sports were good this year. I was on a great soccer team, with a person from my class and others that I knew. The basketball team was ok, but not the best. We did improve as the games went on. I was really upset when I heard that Saturday baseball was canceled for the 4th and 5th graders. It was canceled because there is construction being done on our red field. They are putting up a new building and making the ground better. I think only grades 3 and lower got to play. That's unfair. I hope that at the new school I'll go to, the sports there will be as good as the ones here. (June 23 is the last day of school for Ted and Louisa here in German.)

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for guidance for French Lutheran leadership as they consider Lutheran outreach in Poitiers.

Pray for Rev. Brent Smith as he makes transition into the Eurasia regional director position.

Pray for the Smith family, Jennie, Zach, Katelyn and Sophie as they make the move from Moscow to Germany.

Pray for the Mehls as they make the move from Germany to Hong Kong.

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