



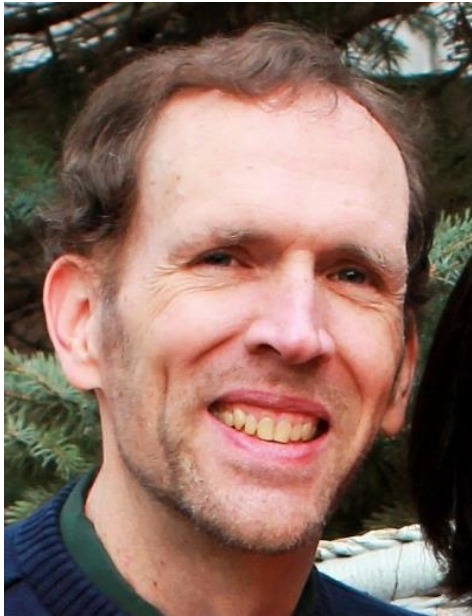
# JOE & BETHANY BINDEMAN

*Missionaries with PIONEERS to France*

The Bindemans' ministry vision is to establish church planting movements (CPM) through relational evangelism and discipleship among the secular French, and to equip French believers to be involved in the Great Commission. While living in and among the people they seek to reach, the Bindemans strive to penetrate the spiritual darkness of France with the Light of Jesus Christ.

**PIONEERS**

## JOE'S STORY



Joe was participating in evangelism and discipleship with CRU at Northwestern University. By junior year God gave Joe a heart for reaching the lost, especially overseas. Joe was a part of a prayer group which gathered daily to pray for spiritual needs on campus and in individual countries around the world. Joe had been praying for God's spirit to revive believers and awaken unbelievers in Western Europe since college days. God brought him to Leningrad, Soviet Union in 1989 to plant seeds of the Gospel where it had been denied for over 73 years. Although Europe was Christianized through the early centuries of the last millennium, in the last century Europe has largely abandoned the Gospel of Jesus Christ. More recently, Joe has been working professionally as a Project Manager (PMP) with diverse and international teams to utilize their unique gifts in achieving common goals.

### Missions Preparations:

- Trained with CRU in evangelism, discipleship and multiplication
- Actively shared the Gospel every Spring Break with CRU at Daytona Beach
- Trained in cross-cultural ministry at the University of the Nations in New York
- Short-term Evangelistic Mission trip with a Cru team in Leningrad, Russia in 1989

### Biblical training:

- Self-study in topics of doctrine, evangelism & discipleship, apologetics, the Spirit-filled life, the attributes of God, and other world religions
- Taught and trained in the Word by Dan Lewis, former professor at William Tyndale College and current teacher with YWAM's University of the Nations
  - Trained in Old Testament, New Testament, Theology & Ethics, History & Culture, etc.

### Pre-field Training:

- Hermeneutics, Biblical Studies, Church Planting

## BETHANY'S STORY

The Lord opened Bethany's eyes to His global mission several years ago, and specifically put France on her heart. Bethany served on a missionary internship with The Mission Society in Paris in 2010. She then devoted all her resources to preparing for full-time ministry in France by taking courses in theology, missions, and French. She taught English as a Second Language to Burmese refugees and taught ESL in a large outreach program in Louisiana. She is currently working with local believers in Mount Clemens to establish a relational evangelism and discipleship program to young moms.



### Missions Preparations:

- Studied Systematic Theology through Credo Courses
- Certificate in Perspectives on the World Christian Movement
- Certificate in Encountering the World of Islam
- Certificate in Teaching ESL from North American Mission Board (NAMB)
- Self-study in Evangelism, Apologetics, Missions, Church Planting, etc

### Pre-field Training:

- Continuation of Systematic Theology, Biblical Studies, Church Planting

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*We have a passion for sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, a passion for His people, and a passion for His Glory to be known!*

We believe that the ultimate purpose for our marriage, family, and our lives is to bring glory to God. Long before the two of us met, God had given each of us a heart for the nations, for missions, for His people. After much prayer, we have decided to step out in faith to pursue this dream of full-time ministry in another land, specifically France and possibly expanding further through Western Europe.



## FRANCE



Joe, Bethany, and Ellie at the 9th century  
*Château de la Madeleine, Chevreuse, France.*

### INTERESTING FACTS



The most visited tourist destination in the world.



Christianity was introduced in the first and second centuries. However, the Church has been persecuted since then - as reported by Irenaeus of Lyons in 177.



Home to Reformers, such as John Calvin.



After the Revolution, Philosophy grew rapidly. Cafés became a place to exchange ideas. In fact, the French seek the same things in cafes as Christians do in church.

### WHY FRANCE

Most people do not think of France as a country in need of the gospel because France is a modern western democracy with a long history of Christianity. In fact, some major events in Church history and important Christian theologians were French. When most people think of missions they think of less-developed countries in Africa, South America, or Asia, but normally not France. However, this perception is changing. The churches in Africa, Asia, and South America are growing at a phenomenal rate, while the church in France (and much of Europe) is declining.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The history of the Church in France is inseparable from the history of France itself. Gaul, modern-day France, was one of the first countries to receive the Gospel in the first and second centuries. Some say that it was evangelized by Phillip, the disciple of Jesus; Lazarus, the man Jesus raised from the dead; and Joseph of Arimathea, who buried Jesus in his tomb. During the Dark Ages, the true and faithful believers were isolated and persecuted. From the Middle Ages to the Enlightenment, France was home to many of the famous Protestant Reformers, such as John Calvin. The French Revolution brought on the rejection of the Church as a whole - both Protestant and Catholic. Philosophy and existential thought grew rapidly. Cafés became a place to exchange such ideas. **In fact, the French seek the same things in cafés as Christians do in church: truth, camaraderie/fellowship, and a sense of transcendence.** All three are seen as necessary for life.

### STRATEGIC LOCATION

From political and global aspects, France is an ideal location for reaching the nations. Politically, France is a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), and it is one of the five remaining 'superpowers' in the aftermath of WWII. France's culture is renowned and influential, and the country remains a hugely popular tourist destination. The French language is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world. **Hundreds of thousands of top international students are sent to study in France's highly acclaimed universities and return home to become leaders in their own countries.** Many of these countries are closed or hostile to Christian missionaries or difficult to enter. Thus, making France a strategic location to develop disciples of Jesus who will take the Gospel into the world.

## JOIE DE VIVRE

Though many French wear 'funeral faces' in public, they are always searching for the *joie de vivre*, the joy of life. In my opinion the two most notable areas they seek their *joie de vivre* are food and rest. We all know about France's world-class gastronomy, their *haute cuisine*. The French take their food and its preparation very seriously. In contrast to the general American idea that food is a necessity so let's get it over with, they believe food is a necessity so let's enjoy it! They also know how to rest and 'be'. Their workweeks are shorter. Their lunch breaks are longer. They vacation for weeks at a time. This is normal. This is necessary. They know how to rest. They essentially sabbath ... yet without God. **They seek the *joie de vivre* without knowing the Joy Giver.**

CAPITOL: PARIS  
OLDEST: MARSEILLE  
POP: 60 MILLION  
<3K CHURCHES

## OUR RESPONSE

The existentialist mindset of the French finds no meaning in life. Imagine trying to live a life that you believe is ultimately without purpose, without meaning, and without hope. Would you even want to live at all? ("If Christ isn't risen... let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die." I Corinthians 15) **We believe that Jesus is the Risen Lord and He is the ultimate answer to the meaning of life and the true *joie de vivre* they seek.** France needs communities of people following Jesus to show them a life worth living and we want to help.

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52%	10%	30%	.9%
Catholic	Muslim	Atheist	Evangelical
5% attends Mass			

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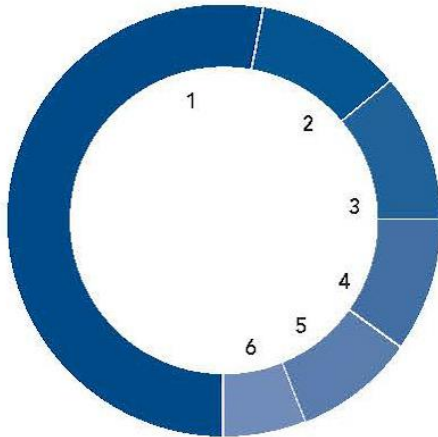


Eglise Saint-Gervais Saint Protais in Gisors, France was consecrated in 1119. It is still the only visible church in its city and neighboring towns.

Right now there is one church for every 80,000 people in France, but the goal of the French believers is to plant new churches and one day have 1 church for every 10,000 people. Churches in France are often small (between 4 and 40 people) and face a lot of opposition, but they are the pathways through which God's love is displayed. They are like tiny candles illuminating a dark room. Many more need to be lit in order to give the French the light to see.

# PIONEERS

Pioneers mobilizes teams to glorify God among unreached peoples by initiating church-planting movements in partnership with local churches.



RELIGIOUS BLOCS AMONG WHICH PIONEERS ARE WORKING

1	Muslim	53%
2	Buddhist	11%
3	Unreligious	11%
4	Tribal/Animistic	10%
5	Other	9%
6	Hindu	6%

3122

PIONEERS MEMBERS WORLDWIDE

16

OFFICES  
& BASES

315

TEAMS

207

PEOPLE GROUPS WITH PIONEERS TEAMS

108

COUNTRIES

175

LANGUAGES

AREA OF FOCUS: CHURCH-PLANTING MOVEMENT TRAINING (CPM) (2012 - 2016)

208

TRAINING EVENTS

1798

BIBLE STUDIES &  
CHURCHES STARTED

3800

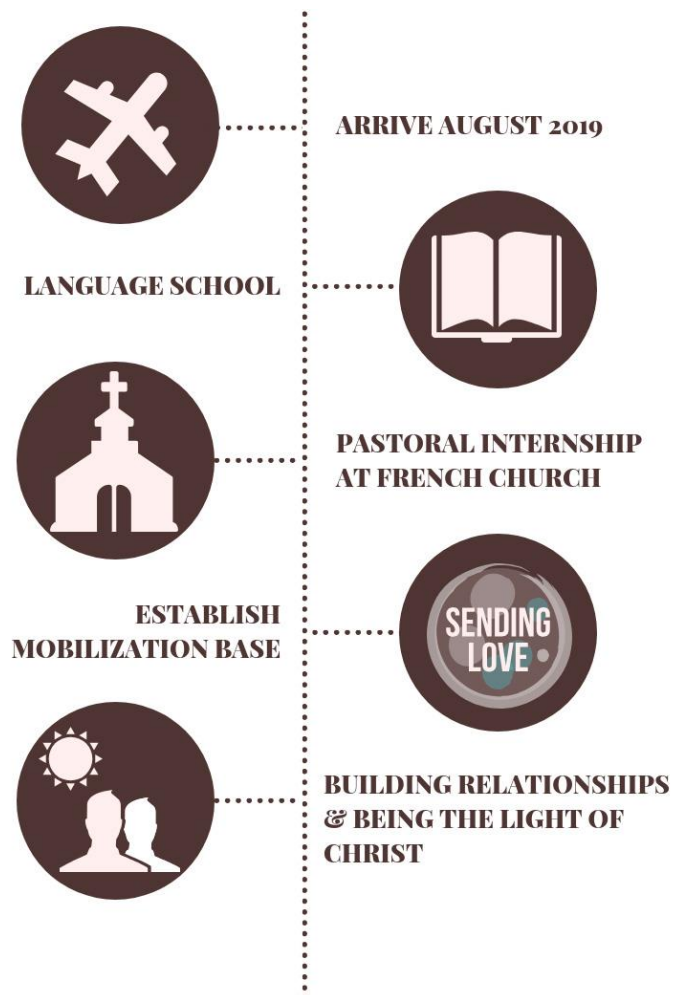
LOCALS EQUIPPED WITH  
CPM PRINCIPLES

Go to [www.Pioneers.org/CPM](http://www.Pioneers.org/CPM) for more.

## MINISTRY VISION

Our Ministry Vision is to be a part of a team that establishes a church planting movement (CPM) among secular French through relational evangelism and personal discipleship, and to use our administrative and project management skills to establish a mobilization office which will equip and send French believers to the mission field. While living among the French, we will strive to penetrate the spiritual darkness with the Light of Jesus Christ.

## THE PLAN — FIRST TERM





## CALLED TO GO TOGETHER

PARTNERSHIP MINISTRY AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The fruit of this important partnership is lives changed by the Gospel, brought into communities of believers, who in turn gather to worship God and scatter to make His name known.

The task of taking the Good News to the remaining unreached people groups is significant, but it's not a job we are to do alone. Working together, churches, financial supporters, prayer partners and field workers are each making a valuable contribution to the Great Commission.

Will you join us?

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT NEEDED FOR EFFECTIVE MINISTRY

#### **\$8,000 ONGOING MONTHLY**

Needed in ongoing monthly or annual donations for living expenses, taxes, insurance, ministry travel, communication, training, etc.

#### **\$50,000 ONE-TIME DEPARTURE**

Needed for one-time departure expenses for training, language school, moving/shipping, one-way travel, visa/residency permits, vehicle, home setup

### HOW INDIVIDUALS CAN PARTNER WITH US

1

#### **PRAY FOR US**

Committed prayer warriors are essential in ministry. The work of missions is foremost prayer.

2

#### **FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Ongoing monthly or annual financial partners are vital in sustaining the ministry.

3

#### **ADVOCATE**

Help us connect with other missions-mind people or groups

### HOW CHURCHES CAN PARTNER WITH US

1

#### **INVITE US TO SHARE**

about this ministry with your congregation, small group, Bible study, etc

2

#### **SUPPORT US THROUGH YOUR ORGANIZATION**

ongoing financial and prayer partnership through your church, organization, or mission board

3

#### **NETWORK**

Help us network and connect with other missions-minded individuals, churches, organizations, etc.

4

#### **COMBINATION**

Any one or combination of the above three would be an incredibly blessing to this ministry



# JOE & BETHANY BINDEMAN

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It is only through the partnership of many people praying and giving that God will supply our needs.

Giving may even mean a personal sacrifice on your part. But we would not be asking if the challenges and opportunities for church planting were not so great. We value your support. Whether through prayer, encouragement or finances, you are an integral part of our ministry team.



Thank you so much,

Joe & Bethany Bindeman

## Our contact information

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## Send gifts to

# PIONEERS

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