

AÉBEQ REGION TRIP

The North Shore Tour

My Québec tour started with Sunday ministry at the Fellowship Church in d'Ahuntsic in Montréal with Pastor Sylvain & Ninon Paradis. I preached at both morning services in this church of approximately 180 people. This church is currently talking about adding a sizeable addition to its building. The church was a plant in the early 1970's by pioneer Bill Phillips.



Pastor Sylvain & Ninon leading in worship

French Missions Director, David Dobson and I made a stop at our Fellowship church in Delson (S. Shore of Montréal) with Pastor Daniel & Chantal Gagné. They planted this church six years ago and recently purchased an old church building and completed a major renovation of the old church along with major addition. Thanks to the generous gift of a Fellowship donor, this church was able to complete this build with far less debt. God is good! This is the fourth church plant the Gagnés have completed.



Fellowship International Missionaries, the Castros, attend the d'Ahuntsic Church



The Gagnés & Steve

We enjoyed a meeting of 35 Fellowship pastors and their families for a picnic meeting at Pastor Dominique & Anne Guichard's country home for a time of fellowship, prayer and time in the Word. I was very encouraged by the wonderful sense of family this group displayed.

We left the Montréal pastorale and on our way to Bécancour (on the south shore of St. Lawrence, across from the city of Trois-Rivières) we stopped by a historic cemetery where the earliest Baptist church planters to Québec were buried.



The new church building at Delson



The Montréal Pastor's Prayer Group

These Pioneers from the "Grande Ligne Mission" came to Québec to spread the gospel starting in the 1840's. Note the grave marker commemorating the sacrificial Gospel ministry of Henriette Feller. Another 80-100 grave markers told the story of sacrifice of many of these pioneer Baptist missionaries/church planters who came with the Grande Ligne Mission from Switzerland and settled just out of Montréal. They paved the way for our early



The new addition (rear) was just completed



The Grande-Ligne Cemetery

Fellowship pioneers who entered Québec with the Gospel in the 1930's (Wilf Wellington) and 1940's (Murray & Lorne Heron and others).

We ended our first day in Bécancour viewing the building site of a new Fellowship church plant; started in 2011 and a daughter work of our Trois-Rivières church. I visited the site of their building in June 2012, and so, was excited to see the progress one year later. David Dobson and I met with Pastor Israël (Israël-Luc and Agnes recently adopted five children from the Ukraine) and four of his leaders. It



The Henriette Feller Tombstone

was a joy to witness their joy and passion for the work now grown to 120 people. The building construction is advancing and will accommodate 250-300 people. I had the joy of presenting this church a cheque for \$80,000

from a generous Fellowship patron toward completion of the next phase of their building. We learned that they had been short \$76,000 for this next



Pastor Israël-Luc Godfrey

phase and were rejoicing when they heard of the gift of \$80,000. God is good.



Looking over the plans



Presenting the cheque for \$80,000

Next day we visited our Montréal-Nord church with Robert & Jackie Charpentier and their Associate, Narcisse. This church meets in a small store front with a capacity of approximately 60 people. Currently, they host three worship



Pastor Robert & Steve in front of the Church facility

services with 250 attending the church. We visited the potential site of their new building. With the generous donation of Fellowship friends they will be in the position to purchase a building to accommodate 350-500 in attendance. Pastor Doug Blair of Bluewater Baptist Church, in Sarnia, ON was also present to give the gift of a Dodge

Van to Narcisse, from his church. The Bluewater church family has donated four vans to French workers to date. What a blessing!



Doug Blair, Robert, Dave Dobson, Narcisse & Steve

We travelled to Trois-Rivières where we met with Pastor Benoit



Pastors from Trois-Rivières

Lavergne and Joël Lapierre (Joël & Julie recently adopted three children from the Ukraine) whose church of 350 recently planted the Bécancour Church (2011) across the St. Lawrence River from their city. They rejoice in God's blessing and His provision for them in this transition. It was very encouraging for me to see that church planting was a natural outgrowth of their small group ministry in the Bécancour area, and to hear that they are already talking about the day when they too can plant a church.



Pastor Doug presenting Van

I also had an interesting time talking to Mark Levasseur, the Director of O.R.A., a ministry to First Nation's people. Mark's Board Chair is our own Terry Cuthbert, along with a couple of other Fellowship pastors serving on this Board. There are 57 aboriginal bands in Québec. Twenty-two are French-speaking bands. While there are many Christian ministries and evangelical churches among the English speaking bands in Québec, there are only 2 known evangelical churches among the 40,000 French speaking First Nation



Mark & Terry

people in Québec. The work is immense. The opportunities are wonderful and Mark and his team are certainly poised to be mightily used of the Lord. This ministry will be part of the Fellowship's 2014 Annual Project.



The O.R.A. Board

We drove to Québec City and met with four church leaders including Pastors Bertrand Villomé and Jaques Tanguay of our Québec Baptist Church and Pastor Claude Caron of our Charny Baptist Church. I had the joy to present our three new Directional Documents sharing the Mission, Vision and Values of our International, Francophone and Chaplaincy Ministry. We ended up the day with a drive up near Alma and Lac St. Jean and toured Camp Patmos. Camp Directors, Frank and Wallie Danbrook, have led this fruitful ministry for 13 years. Two transplanted Anglophones from Calgary and St. Thomas who have served the Lord in Québec for decades.



New Directional Documents



A foal born at Camp Patmos the day we arrived

Our Fellowship still needs Anglophones to come serve in Québec and reach six million Francophones for Christ. Currently, only .8% of French speaking Canadians know Christ. Has God got any willing servants ready to minister in Québec? I believe so; talk to me.



Frank & Wallie

From Alma to Baie-Comeau

Our next day started in Alma at the south end of Lac St. Jean. We visited with Pastor Michel Lahaie of our church in Jonquière, Pastor Jean-Philippe Lapierre of our church in Alma and Pastor Etienne Brochu, who serves at our St. Félicien church. I was encouraged to hear that work that has been done to ensure unity and peace among our Fellowship churches in the Lac St. Jean region.



Dave Dobson, Steve, Jean-Philippe, Michel and Étienne



Steve, Quintal & Cédric

We met with Pastor Cédric Bernard of our church in Chicoutimi along with his son, Quintal and board member, Steve. Cédric has pastored in Chicoutimi since 2001, before which he pastored in France and served in France's navy as a submariner. Quintal just came back from a church planting conference, as he continues to seek the Lord for his future.

We ended the third day of our Québec tour driving to Baie-Comeau to meet with pastors Jean-Pascal Besrest (Baie-Comeau Church), Louis Roussel (Sept-Îles), Denis Maisonneuve (Île Jésus Church near Sept-Îles) and Jacques Poirier of our Port-Cartier Church. Three of these brothers kindly drove two to three hours Southwest to Baie-Comeau to meet with us. Louis shared that they would be baptizing five believers this next Sunday. God is good.



Steve, Jean-Pascal, Denis, Louis, Jacques & Dave

The next morning we drove to la Malbaie to visit with Dustin and Corrine Barker at our La Malbaie Church, a church that needs our prayers. After some struggles it dropped to approximately twenty-five to thirty people. Pastor Dustin was only called to the church in the summer of 2012. Pray for them as they minister in this strong Catholic area.



The Barkers & Steve



New Fellowship Church in St. Leonard, Montréal, QC

We ended the day with a visit to a new church plant in St. Léonard, the Italian section of Montréal. This church is a daughter of our Rosemount Church in Montréal. Pastor René Frey, servant-in-training Benoît Constant and approximately twenty others on the launch team met with us. We worshipped and prayed together. I asked them to pray for seven Anglophone Fellowship churches to partner with this young church in the months to come. Please pray with me for this need. Maybe you are the answer to this prayer? Talk to me if you're interested in further information.



Steve and René sharing with the Launch Team

We visited a new church in St. Jérôme, QC, which is about forty-five minutes north of Montréal. Pastors Rob Karsh and Jacob Mathieu planted the "Ecclesia"



Dave, Mathieu, Steve, Rob & Terry

church a few years back as a daughter from our Terrebonne-Mascouche church. Today the church has 180 people with dreams of starting a church planting movement in this region of 165,000 with only a few other evangelical churches. They recently purchased a well known classic theatre as their new church home. The owners wanted \$800,000, but eighteen months later they purchased it for a little more than half of that price.

God is so good. Their own people along with the Fellowship National and other churches helped in the purchase. Pray for this exciting new church meeting in the center of St. Jérôme right beside the area's cathedral, the University at CEGEP—a strategic location for a church with dreams of planting several more churches in the years to come.



The interior of the New Church facility



The Church is featured in a local newspaper



Dave Dobson shares about a new French church plant in Montréal

Also pray for a significant need of \$100,000 due in September toward their initial down payment along with \$500,000 needed for the extensive renovations to this extraordinary church facility.

We ended our Montréal/North Shore Québec tour by attending the two day AÉBEQ (Quebec) Regional Conference just north of Montréal. Steve had the joy of speaking to our French pastors and leaders as the key-note conference speaker.

My tour gave me an opportunity to meet and speak with 44 pastors and church leaders in many of our Fellowship French churches along the North Shore of the St. Lawrence from Montréal to Baie-Comeau. It was a joyful time spent with so many remarkable leaders in our movement of churches. Please keep praying for francophone Canadians. So many still need to know the Lord. Quebec is our mission field. Please join with me in praying for many new church plants in the years to come.



Dan Baetz shares Fellowship International News

Blessings,

Steve