

From Timothée December 2008

Greetings from Dunkerque, France.

It's been great to be back with my parents. We hadn't seen each other since 18 months ago. They are doing really well and very involved with the church here. They just don't stop: house meetings, visits, outreach, preaching, intercession, and counseling. When I turn 71, I hope I'll be as 'on the go' as they are.

My time in the USA was tremendous.

First at the International House Of Prayer (IHOP) in Kansas City. Hundreds of visitors every day, praying. I have never been to such a place in my life! From the 19th of September 1999 (the same day I left France for Cambodia) IHOP has had non stop (I mean non stop) prayer, day and night. Very much like the Moravian prayer movement centuries ago. The Lord touched and refreshed me in a way I had never experienced before. For over two weeks a very nice couple had me stay in their house, a few miles away from the House of prayer.

From there I flew out to the State of Pennsylvania. After attending a "Bill Gaither and the Homecomings friends concert", I took the train to the WEC USA headquarters near Philadelphia. I shared at the staff meeting of my recent tour of meetings in Brazil and caught up with old friends among Marj Mc Dermid who 10 years ago when she was serving with Rainbows of Hope (the ministry of WEC International to Children in Crisis) encouraged me to join WEC in Cambodia.

I then headed to New York City, staying at a Christian guest house in Manhattan, (around the corner from where John Lennon was shot). The day I arrived the city was hosting the final Obama - Mc Cain presidential debate. The reason for stopping in NYC was to visit the ministry of Bill Wilson , now known to be the biggest Sunday school in America: 25 000 children ! I joined one of their many teams holding open airs in the Bronx and also their big lively in doors meeting in Brooklyn. On the last day in New York I attended Time Square Church, founded by David Wilkerson and a huge gospel crusade with evangelist Greg Laurie at Madison Square Gardens.

The next day I flew out from JFK airport to Paris.

I have been taking meetings across Northern France lately. I travel with a big banner that says: " Le Pont l' avez- vous traversé?" (Have you crossed the Bridge?) which I put up in churches: An invitation for sinners to cross

from darkness to Eternal life. And also a challenge for believers to cross over from a comfortable Christian life to a life of service.

I have been preaching in Wattrelos (a group of children there are sending 30 Christmas shoe boxes full of presents to the children of the Bridge of hope in Cambodia), in Laon (a number of outsiders attended the service along with newspapers reporters), in St Quentin (my old church) in Roubaix (where as a family we use to live), Boulogne sur mer (the little church my Mum and Dad started 3 years ago) and finally meetings in St-Pol sur mer, near Dunkerque (where my parents are now serving). Over 250 people packed the church last Sunday morning.

In a few days I will be taking the train again, this time for the Alsace region. Please stand with me in prayer. Those meetings have been organized by the WEC French Sending Base.

28 Nov: Youth rally in Mulhouse

29 Nov: Youth meeting in Strasbourg

30 Nov: Baptist Church, Mulhouse

2 Dec: Portes Ouvertes Church, Mulhouse

4 Dec: Assemblies of God, Strasbourg

I will then be heading for a TV interview (Trinity Broadcasting Network) in Belfort on the 6th and preaching at a church there the next day.

Last two meetings, on the 12th in Nanterre and on the 14th in Chateau-Thierry.

There will be 18 of us this year for Christmas. We will all be at my brother and his wife's house, by the sea.

3 days later, I will fly back to Cambodia.

Arrival in Phnom Penh on December 29th, just in time for New Year's Day.

I miss Cambodia and look forward to being back with the team there. I have been missing very much the families from the slums. They are constantly on my heart.

There are still thousands of children across Cambodia working on the streets. Hundreds of them are found every day at the large dump on the outskirts of Phnom Penh.

A short termer from the US visiting ' Smoky Mountain ' a few months ago describes what she saw.

“ We just got back from a very disturbing and eye opening visit to the dump. Imagine that dump with people; naked children playing with broken glass, pregnant women carrying bags of trash, men drinking water through a small whole in a plastic bag, a family sifting through the layers of dirt mixed with moldy food, flies and yesterdays newspapers, houses on stilts resting on the rim of this smoking pile with children running barefoot. If you can imagine that, then you only have the slightest idea of what it's like.

Those people live in the dump, every day waking up and going to the pile, searching for things they can sell. There is no picture that can capture the powerful faces that look at you when you have a really nice camera in your hand and you're just staring at them through a lens. I' m about to go eat a nice meal for the 3rd time today, and those people probably won't even eat a decent piece of fruit; it will probably be on a mound of trash and covered with flies. There are so many images from Cambodia that will stick with me for a long time, but what I saw today will never fade”.

Keep praying for the street children of Cambodia,

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news and photos on www.timpaton.info (under Google)