

The French Press

With the James Carney Family

Dear **Praying** Friends,

Since the beginning of this year we have had two new men attending our men's meetings which are held the first Tuesday night of every month. Alain and Alain are both unsaved. They are friends and both have the same first name. We call the first Alain « Alsace » because he is from a region in France called Alsace. We call the second Alain « Alain. »

Let's start with Alsace. At the men's meetings in January and February he was very outspoken (as he still is). He is not afraid to share his opinions. One of the opinions he shared was that Jesus is not God. He defended this position poorly, but passionately. He had been to a church before in Alsace, but he does not know what kind of church it was (that is, beyond labeling it as a Protestant church). The Deity of Christ comes up ALL THE TIME. Since it is such an important issue, especially for salvation, I kindly but firmly nip any false doctrine concerning Christ in the bud. After showing him multiple Scriptural proofs for the Deity of Christ, Alsace came to me and said, « You know, you have changed my mind on something. » I thought, « Oh no, what is it this time! » But he continued, « I really believed that I was right about Jesus' not being God, but you have shown me that He is God. » WOW! Thank you, Holy Spirit! What a victory! Now the gospel is open to Alsace!

Let's move on to Alain (the second Alain, that is). He has been around our church for years. He is not an attender, but he will come help from time to time and he enjoys attending our special activities (like BBQs, Christmas parties...). He is very friendly and non-confrontational. He is, however, very hesitant concerning the gospel. At our Easter picnic he heard the gospel yet again. He raised his hand during the invitation saying that he wanted to know more about salvation. I got a chance to talk to him later that day. He patiently listened to the gospel and I asked him if he wanted to receive Christ. He said, « I still have doubts, I am not sure about religion. » I replied that religion was not the issue, but rather that of having a relationship with the God that created him. I explained how he must be convinced that he needed Jesus, his Creator. He said he was not ready to decide, so I told him I would be praying that he would place his faith in God for salvation. I finished by reminding him that faith is not something we feel or see, it is trust we place in someone or something.

Would you **pray** for Alsace that he would receive Christ as his Savior? Would you also **pray** for Alain that he would place his faith in God for salvation? **Please pray** that God would guide me as I continue speaking to these two men. Also, **please pray** that the church roof would be covered by the roofer's insurance. We had a response from our insurance for the church roof, but they said there is nothing they can do. So, the next step is to send a letter to the roofer invoking our right to have the roof repaired at his expense. Our roof has a 10-year guarantee and it has only been 7 years since the roof was replaced. We got an estimate to repair the roof with similar materials for \$17,000 and another estimate to strengthen the structure to be able to place a more durable option for \$34,000. We are not looking for handouts, but we have been informed by several roofers that there are some flaws that led to the roof's rotting in so short a time. Our desire is to use the 10-year guarantee to fix the roof so we can get back to work on remodeling the church building. **Please pray** for this as it could be a very long process.

Merci,



James & Virginie Carney

