

Bonins in Belgium

advancing the purpose of Christ in European university communities

Fall 2011



Portraits of a Continental Ministry Team

One of the most delightful aspects of working with our various colleagues, both nationals and missionaries across the great European landscape, is the diversity of the gifts that each one brings to the *Students for Christ-Europe* family. It has been such a privilege to be able to experience interaction with these splendid friends on individual and corporate levels. As our travels this year have taken us from Brussels (Belgium) to Budapest (Hungary), as far east as Warsaw (Poland) and Russia to as far west as Toulouse (south western France) and south to Athens (Greece), one thing has been constant – the beauty of God's family fitted together in what the apostle Peter calls the "living stones" of God's house.



In July, while preparing for a trip to Izhevsk, Russia (*photo at left*) to teach on discipleship and encourage students there to launch an *SFC* group at the semester's start, it dawned on me that one of the best ways to model discipleship would be to bring recent Bible college graduate, *SFC* leader and short-term missionary from Belgium, Mike Limpens with me. Together with the director of *SFC-Russia & Eurasia Northwest*, Eric Muzart, who issued the invitation, we had a very fruitful week of ministry with Mike teaching alongside me during the camp...discipleship/mentorship in action.

After *SFC's* summer student training conference in Hungary, attended by over 20 nationalities of students and workers, replete with great training and community building, the "living stones" performing their precise purposes to effectively pull off such an event, I trekked on to Poland. My task was to

communicate on the theme "Passion, Calling, & Friendship" within a campus ministry context. Additionally, through Curt Hobbs (*at right*), veteran student ministry colleague and servant-leader extraordinaire, we were able to initiate an official collaboration with the *Petra* student ministry led by young businessman and national Polish leader, Szymon Kruba and his exuberant co-worker Anna Zablocka. What a privilege!



Toulouse, France was my latest destination where I was hosted by José and Sonia Ruiz (*lower left*). As an entrepreneurial couple directing the *RESET* ministry and a local food bank grocery store for students, they are shining in their respective niches of outreach. My visit found me speaking at a student meeting, having lunch with a young Frenchman who came to faith in Christ through the influence of the Ruiz' via the food bank store and strategizing with this ministry leader couple about future collaborative efforts in their region.



The latest good news is the newly acquired place for the *SFC* group to meet on the campus here in our city of Louvain-la-Neuve. After 11 years of praying and petitioning the university, the group was finally accorded an academic room for a meeting space!

Thank God with us for this favor and for TEAM Europe. And thank you for being part of our much needed team of support in every way that you are – all of us serving as living stones in God's house. We appreciate you!

Blair, Dina, Callie, Claire, Evangeline, Christopher, David and Josiah Bonin

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