



## Monthly Prayer Topics for France

### *April 2011*

#### **In politics...**

1. On April 5<sup>th</sup>, the Senate convened for discussions of bioethical law, focusing on child rights and female dignity. Thank God for the positive advances raised by these discussions, and pray that the senators will continue to evaluate these laws and their ethical foundations, which place the rights of the most vulnerable at the very heart of French society – beyond scientific competitions and commercial objectives.
2. Debates are being opened surrounding the issue of *laïcité* (secularism) as a foundation of French society. French Evangelical Christians fear that an absence of true and open debate risks reinforcing the inequalities between various religious groups in France. Pray for a sensible debate on *laïcité*, in which all the interested and affected parties can be heard and respected. Pray for dialogues and advances that allow *laïcité* to be a practice of equality rather than a practice of discrimination.
3. The Hospital, Health, Patients, and Territories bill, a healthcare reform bill that would result in a decrease of healthcare professionals and facilities, was debated this month in the National Assembly. Thank God for France's advantageous health care system, compared to other nations, and ask for God's wisdom on the decisions to be made and those making the decisions (notably Xavier Bertrand, the Minister of Work and Health, and Nora Berra, Secretary of State). Ask God to bless healthcare professionals, naming those whom you know personally. Pray for hospital chaplains, and proclaim God as the healer of our bodies and souls!

#### **In society...**

1. In a previous letter, we asked you to pray for local French farmers, one of whom commits suicide every day under the pressures and exploitations that they face. On March 31st, French minister Bruno Le Maire brought attention to this issue, demanding an increase of suicide prevention measures among Agricultural Social Security initiatives. Thank God, who hears our prayers, and the cries of the suffering! Ask God to bless this initiative and its leaders, asking that the hopeless will receive the comfort and dignity that is due to them. Call for a renewal of Christian witness and action in rural society, praying for the revitalization of faith in French villages!
2. People living in rural France face hefty charges and fees that prevent them from having practical and financial access to the services which they need – childcare, public transportation, hi-speed internet – though overlooked, their expectations are no different than those of urban dwellers! Pray for a concerted and practical Parliamentary agreement to be reached that will allow the financing of a reduction in charges that weigh on agricultural enterprises. Also, pray for agriculture to be a profitable endeavor, that farmers would be released from the weight of debt, economic uncertainties, and the perversities of food chains.
3. A service honoring the African-Martinique francophone poet Aimé Césaire was held at the Paris Pantheon this month. Pray for God to bless Martinique and her people, along with the rest of France's overseas territories. Thank God for making France a welcoming nation that is enriched by cultural diversity. Pray for the mutual respect of all cultures that make up France today. Call for peace and for God's plans to be carried out in France and her territories.

### **In the economy...**

1. In the midst of oil crises and the greenhouse effect, river transport has arisen as a new form of sustainable transportation method. Pray for the development of river transport to progress in a way that is respectful of the environment, and for this alternative transport method to generate employment positions and boost the economic fabric of French society.

### **In the Church...**

1. French Christians joined with their brothers and sisters around the world to celebrate Easter on April 24<sup>th</sup>. In several French cities, Christians participated in flash mobs to spread the message of peace and harmony in a modern, relevant way. Dare to proclaim Jesus' resurrection all year long, not just on Easter! Pray for our Christian brothers and sisters who are unable to proclaim their faith freely, and bless religious authorities (especially those that have important contact with state officials). Pray that the true spirit of Easter would be recognized in France, and that it wouldn't be shoved aside as just another religious event.
2. Bertrand, a French pastor, has requested prayers for two of his acquaintances' spiritual and physical health. The first, Corinne, who struggles with brain cancer, recently dedicated her life to Christ after a period of relief following prayer for her healing. However, she still has quite a long way to go for full health. The second, Nelly, suffers from lupus and recently asked for healing prayer in a worship service. Please pray for Corinne and Nelly, that God would heal them physically as He is continually replenishing their souls.
3. Missionaries Christophe and Sophie Savage are working to set up a children's club through their Christian outreach association "Coeurs Nouveaux." Please pray for them to get the authorization they need (health and safety, etc), and that God would work through this organization to reach the youngest generation of France!

### **Missionary Spotlight**

1. Christophe and Katherine Savage are leading their second open-air children's outreach event on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Please pray for a fruitful time for the children, for connection with the parents, and for overall spiritual impact!