



I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God ACTS 26:16-17

Name _____
 Address Postcode _____

 Email _____

 Church _____ Date _____

Financial support

I pledge to give a regular monthly/quarterly/annual gift of £..... to GBM for the support of Tom and Lucy.

I will set up a standing order for my regular gift, to HSBC a/c 71100335 sort code: 40-08-10. The purpose of the donation will be stated in the payment reference.

I wish GBM to claim gift aid on all donations I make to Tom and Lucy's support. I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that will be reclaimed on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

Signed _____ Date _____

Please notify Grace Baptist Mission if you:

- Want to cancel this declaration
- Change your name or home address
- No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

Please return to:

Grace Baptist Mission, 12 Abbey Close, Abingdon-on-Thames, Oxon, OX14 3JD

Tom and Lucy Forryan



GBM Council has approved Tom and Lucy Forryan to serve in France from the autumn of 2018. Sent by their home church, Derby Road Baptist Church Watford, where Tom has been the pastor for twenty years, their heart is to serve the Lord in gospel work in France.





Tom writes: France, like most western European countries, is a needy place. Although still one of the wealthiest countries in the world, economic progress has stagnated and young people in particular seem to face a depressing future without real prospects. With a sizeable Muslim minority, the politics of polarisation is alive and well. The threat of terror attacks continues, leaving people confused, angry and scared. Above all, French people need Christ. We know that without him, they remain 'darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God' (Eph. 4:18).

Out of a population of 67 million, 35% of French self-identify as having 'no religious affiliation' and this figure rises to above 60% for under-25s. 53% never attend a place of worship at all, and while 45% would identify themselves as Roman Catholic, less than 5% of the population will be in church on any given Sunday. On the other hand, there are thought to be some 600,000 evangelical Christians in France and this figure has increased from perhaps only 60,000 or so sixty years ago. They are served by upwards of 3000 churches, many Pentecostal or charismatic, some identified primarily with an immigrant nationality, some historic denominational Protestant and some Reformed Baptist. Often these churches will be small and unable to pay

a full-time pastor. Like UK churches, they can struggle with issues of unity and church discipline. More positively, there is generally a desire to see people coming to Christ and dissatisfaction with seemingly slow progress.

I first visited France eight years ago, to take part in a week's outreach with a local church in northern France, and enjoyed it so much that I have been back several times since to take part in similar events. My experience of talking to French people about Christ is that they can often be more polite and more curious than Brits, if only because they have never come across the gospel before. They might explain that they are 'open-minded' and 'interested to learn about all kinds of faith' and so would perhaps accept a New Testament or booklet to read. They might come to a friendly evangelistic event, such as a meal, a concert or an art exhibition. It would still be a big step from there to begin attending Sunday worship regularly - and a bigger step again to begin living under the lordship of Christ.

Lucy and I have recently been accepted by GBM Council to serve the Lord in Paris. Currently some 2.2 million people live in Paris itself with another 10 million in the surrounding housing projects and satellite towns of the Ile de France region, approaching 20% of the French population. The sheer number of people is overwhelming, but I



believe God would ask us the question he once asked Jonah: 'Should I not have concern for that great city?' (Jonah 4:11) Now, as then, he typically shows his concern by sending his messengers into the heart of the city.

Over the last twenty years, five or six new Reformed Baptist churches have been planted in and around Paris. They are all different, but all share a commitment to Bible teaching and evangelism. They have seen growth, as younger believers moving to Paris find a spiritual home, and they have seen conversions. For example, one church rents a theatre for Sunday mornings. Initially the arrangement was purely commercial, but the manager began attending out of curiosity and has since made a firm profession of faith. Typically these church planters are linked with international networks such as City to City or Acts 29, and also belong to the Association Evangeliques d'Eglises Baptistes de Langue Française, founded in 1921 and representing around sixty churches across France.

Etienne Koning is one such church planter. Having trained at Vaux-sur-Seine, served an apprenticeship at St. Helen's Bishopsgate and

pastored two churches in France, he has now moved with his family and another family into central Paris. They and a few others have begun exploratory meetings towards the formation of 'Eglise Saint Lazare', the project taking its name from the nearby railway station. Lucy and I would like to work with them, at least initially, while we

I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God
ACTS 26:16-17

improve our French and see what else can be done for the cause of Christ. For example could this include evangelistic lunchtime meetings? What about a 'menu sandwich boisson' followed by a twenty minute gospel talk? Would believers bring their colleagues to something like this? Is there a café owner somewhere in central Paris looking for a little extra custom? Do the Parisians still benefit from the legendary two-hour lunch breaks? At this point nothing is

definite but our prayer is a bold one, that weak and sinful as we are, Christ would do with us as he did with the Apostle Paul: 'I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' (Acts 26:16-17)