

J U L Y 2 0 1 8

TEAM MONTPELLIER

Reaching the nations with the hope of the Gospel

pastoring the International Chapel of Montpellier, France

A Spiritual Incubator ... International Church Ladies Ministries

In many ways, our world has become smaller and larger all at the same time. It appears smaller to us because of global transport and digital technology. One can at least feel as if they can reach out and touch the world, if not literally doing so. The world has become larger in the sense that the choices that our children now have before them seem infinite. They no longer need to remain within the cultural boundaries of generations past. Our children can now choose to travel the world for educational purposes; job opportunities; or just for that newly defined term called “wanderlust!”

Over the past 14 years, our thoughts about Ladies Ministries within the international church setting have blossomed & transformed. We have gone from a time of weekly bible studies where community was found within the church walls, to now experiencing that international ladies ministries need to flood over those walls and become life-on-life with one other.

As women come to Montpellier from every corner of the globe and for all types of reasons, we have the opportunity to provide a welcoming home and a fertile ground for the gospel to be rooted and lived out in the ladies’ lives. Robyn has been teaching this group of transient women over the years through bible studies, as well as, seeking to provide wise counsel throughout the week.

But going past the input of our knowledge about God, we have found that international church ladies ministries is a dynamic test tube to communicate that in fact, we serve a living, faithful and watchful God. Most of the women have left family and friends to live in Montpellier for a set period of time. They have set aside culture and comfortability and therefore, sometimes can struggle with one’s understanding of God and His love for them personally. So ladies ministries revolves around not only biblical knowledge about our God, but daily life-on-life experiences and conversations that help to “flesh out” that reality.

This year, Montpellier has been awarded the #2 Incubator City of the World for Business Innovation and we feel that in some way our small group of ladies has its own incubator element. Women are able, in a loving environment, to wrestle with the truths of the Gospel as they hear the Word of God taught and as they are able to see with their own eyes what the Word says. But then as they encounter spiritual conversations or the hardships that expat living provides, it is then that “spiritual roots” are able to go down deep into the soil of God’s marvelous love and our prayer is that they “may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that [they] may be filled with all the fullness of God.” (Eph. 3:18-19) ... With the end result that Christ would be glorified in the church and to the ends of the earth!



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To assist us in our ministry please visit our website:
www.thecoulesministry.com



“I was heard, I was understood”



Mercy, far right, shares this testimony

Before I left South Africa for France I searched for a church online and I found the International Chapel of Montpellier. I texted on their Facebook page and they responded instantly. So as soon as I got to France I went to church.

I knew I wasn't searching any further, it's where I wanted to be. The church is not big and I love that because it becomes easy to interact with others. What I also love about the church is its integration with people from all over the world. I found the right place because they speak a language I understand. It can be very frustrating to learn a new language. The International Chapel became that place of rest I looked forward to every Sunday. I was heard, I was understood. I am blessed to be part of the International Chapel of Montpellier. It is indeed a home away from home.

- Mercy, from South Africa

Thank you for praying for:

- ❖ Restoration for us during the summer months as the “life speed” at the church is diminished as people are either moving out of Montpellier or to Montpellier for the coming school year.
- ❖ If people would desire to give towards a special project at the church: There is a need for obtaining more “pew” bibles; gift bibles, and updating our church English speaking library with a newer selection of books. Throughout the year, we have the opportunity to give out English Bibles to those who are in need. Also, we believe that our church is the only English speaking christian library selection in the entire region which encompasses over a half a million people. We have a good selection, but unfortunately the books are very old and need to be updated. If you would like to participate in providing for this needed ministry opportunity, you can make a special donation, safely and securely, through our ministry website below.
- ❖ Please be in prayer for needed workers at the church. We are currently in desperate need of people who have a passion for children's ministries and have a servant heart to serve in this area. Pray that as people come to the church, even for a little while, they would continue to have the desire to serve the body in various ways.
- ❖ Our financial support which remains under recommended support. Pray with us for additional financial ministry partners.

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