

La Clef Montréal Report / Québec

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As the ministry of *La Clef* continues to grow and the vision is refined, we are looking to move forward here in Québec. It is not a necessity to travel abroad to minister to the francophone community. We are the francophone community. The people we are daily in contact with are the francophone community and not only that, the people of Québec have best accomplished what the francophone community is known for and that is *la joie de vivre* (the joy of life). In France, on the other hand, this *joie de vivre* has been dried up by its own sovereignty. Québec in its current state is full of a people who love their culture and enjoy expressing it. Having been oppressed by the anglophone majority that surrounds us, we've been pushed and forced to express ourselves through hearts, which for us is most commonly done through the arts.

Living in the city of Montréal, also known as *la ville des festivals* (the city of festivals), you experience this life through the arts very often. There are so many artistic expressions that occur daily throughout the urban setting such as in the streets, through the metros, in the galleries, in concert halls, arenas, etc. None of the festivals that Montréal is known for have any type of athletic flavor as is often seen in most urban centers across North America. In Québec to be part of the francophone community means to really be alive physically and spiritually. Yet the "exuberant" spiritual life here is a confused life, not one of encouragement or certainty, but yet confusion and pain, seeking aimlessly, trying to find something and somewhere to belong that holds any light of truth.

Due to the prideful and whorish nature of France, Québec has been hugely influenced by an unfathomable amount of spirituality that has done an excellent job of twisting and slowly destroying the truth and relevance of the gospel of Christ to the culture of Québec. In the process, France has opened the doors to all types of false spirits and twisted doctrines that have been widely dispersed to all of her historic settlements. That is why today in Montréal you can walk into a used bookstore and find a book on almost any type of spirituality except that of Christian spirituality (this is found mostly in the predominantly French quarters). These facts and many others are due to the historic Catholic oppression and France's ardent striving for secularization.

We who are currently part of the *La Clef* team and those who are beginning to hear a call towards the *La Clef* vision here in Québec realize that we as a ministry desire to bloom in the francophone soil of Québec. What does that mean? We are not necessarily sure, but we know God is calling us deeper into *la vraie culture québécoise* (the real Québec culture) and asking us to glorify Him through that real culture. That may mean modeling on a small scale what has been done in France and what will again be done in the near future, i.e., artists sharing their souls by using real québécois expressions to share with the people of Québec, particularly the artists of Québec. That may mean staging concerts, exposés, displaying art and visiting galleries, creating shows for Québec and France, creating our own music and visual arts, etc. At the same time we search and pray for God's leading through all of this. It also may mean using our gifts to bless the wilting

French churches in Québec. There is thought of continuing to create worship and one day be able to record a *La Clef* worship album of original French-only songs so that Québec and France (and any French nation) can worship God not only in their own tongue, but through their own unique culture because when you translate you don't only translate the words you translate the culture with it.

Our heart for *La Clef* is to see God glorified here in Québec by using our own unique gifts that are absolutely stand apart from the world, Europe and North America alike. We are praying for what this means for our near future. Please pray for God's leading during this time and for Him to open doors in His timing.