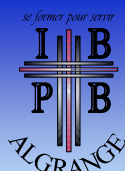


The Institut Biblique et Pastoral Baptiste is a private establishment of higher learning, operating since 1979 in the Moselle department of France. Its mission is to train future pastors, missionaries and church leaders capable of serving Him, wherever He leads.



Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (II Timothy 2:15)

Solitude



One of life's heaviest burdens is that of solitude, thinking that you have to face the difficulties of life all alone. David said, *"No man cared for my soul!"* (Ps. 142:4) The lame man at the pool of Bethesda had nobody to help him into the water. Poor Lazarus had only the company of dogs to lick his wounds. At the end of his foolish way the prodigal son couldn't find anyone who would let him eat at least the husks that he fed to the pigs. Jesus, too, knew this sad feeling. He predicted to his own disciples in John 16:32, *"Behold the hour cometh... that ye... shall leave me alone."* It's possible, however that our perception of solitude is false. After talking to his disciples, Jesus added, *"...yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me."* David, too, not seeing anyone care for his soul, added, *"I cried unto thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living."* (Ps. 142:5) No, friend, you are not alone. Encourage your soul with this conviction.

For your gifts

Thank you for your gifts that evidence the attachment you have to I.B.P.B. You participate in this way in training servants of God for the French-speaking world and even beyond. The Lord of the Harvest is answering our prayers for more workers, but some of them don't have the means to pay for their education. You can help them. Your gifts could also allow us to improve our facilities and be able to take on our president full-time. Thanks in advance for your participation! Our bank information below will help you make a one-time gift or set up a regular financial transfer. You can also address your gifts to Baptist Mid-Missions, P.O. Box 308011, Cleveland, OH. 44130-8011

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An extra-ordinary guest

(Rom 12:13b) *"...given to hospitality."* This exhortation is particularly meaningful in our individualistic and activist culture. Do we still have room for others in our house, our heart and our schedule? In our rush to succeed or survive, we hardly have any more time to receive others. We are absorbed by our work, our families, and all kinds of obligations. People are caught up, almost in spite of themselves, in an unending flow of new demands, new needs and new information that rushes at them from all directions. Don't you sometimes have the impression you're being chased by a giant roller in front of which you have to run your heart out just to keep from being crushed? How is it possible to still find time to take notice of those who are out of breath right next to us?

Christmas is a great time to take a breather and reconsider our priorities. This is the season during which we celebrate the birth of the Savior. When He came into the world there weren't many to welcome him; his mother wasn't even

able to give birth to him in a decent room. That first-century world was already too preoccupied with itself to recognize that the Creator had come to pay it a visit.

Today, in our churches, it's Jesus Himself that requests hospitality: **(Rev. 3:20)** *"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."* Don't allow the noise of the world cover the voice of Jesus. He wants to be our guest, an extra-ordinary guest who offers us sweet communion with the Eternal God.

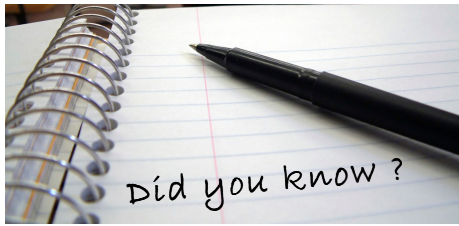
This Christmas season we want to offer our hospitality to the Lord Jesus and to all those He sends our way.

(Mat 10:42) *"And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water, only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward."*

Joël MEYER, president



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Our students are used to taking tests during their courses. Now it's your turn to test your knowledge about the Institute. Just answer true or false to the following questions. Don't panic! The answers are on the next page.

1. L'I.B.P.B. is an American school.
2. Our former students are now working in the entire world.
3. Student fees cover all the operational costs of the Institute.

Helping local churches

Our students have had the joy of traveling to three local churches this Fall to help them with their evangelistic program. It was a great learning experience for them and an encouragement to these national churches.

Two other visits are already scheduled for the second semester, one in mid-January and the other the week of March 20-27. Thanks for praying that the Lord would protect us as we travel and then make us a blessing to these churches that are often small and isolated.

These special trips complement weekly Christian-service ministries that the students do throughout the school year. Courses in the classrooms are thus combined with a regular practicum to help train a new generation of Christian workers for the French-speaking world.



Joël Meyer and Richard Visser will be participating in a conference organized by the Christian Community Church of Luxembourg, December 31 to January 2. It's for young professionals and university students who want to make an impact for Christ on the European continent. The goal is to mobilize for "evangelism and planting healthy, biblical local churches at a turning point in European history."

The biblical mandate is clear and God faithfully keeps his promises to those who trust in Him. The conference is designed to help Christian young adults discover their potential for full-time service and to challenge them to consider the needs in Europe and learn how to meet them. Pastors and youth leaders are also invited to participate.

It's a great idea for a profitable Christmas vacation! For more information and to sign-up, go to the site christian-community-church.net, and click on the box "Turning Point!"

God is faithful and good!

An important part of every day at the Institute is spent in chapel. Professors and students all take turns giving short meditations, sharing testimonies and giving prayer requests. We have been encouraged recently by a number of answers to our prayers that we'd like to share with you. Among others...

- The mother-in-law of one of our students from the Caribbean was diagnosed with pancreatic

cancer. She flew to France, where surgeons were able to operate while the tumor was still very small. She recovered nicely and has now returned to her native island of Martinique.

- One of our professors, also a French missionary pastor, was facing an important ministry decision. God has led him and his family to a national church that had been without a pastor.
- In spite of high unemployment in France, one of our students needing a job has just signed a contract.
- Several of our former students have also found pastoral internships or been accepted for further education.



Answers to the quiz

1. **False.** We are thrilled with the significant contribution of several overseas missionaries, just as we are with that of a growing number of Frenchmen. Our president, Joël MEYER, is French as are seven of our professors. The Institute is officially incorporated in France as an independent school of higher education.
2. **Almost.** We have had students from nearly 30 different countries and our former students now serve on every continent except Australia and Antarctica. Pray with us that enrollments in the new year will reach "10 in 2010".
3. **False.** During a typical year less than 30% of our operational costs are covered by student fees. Nearly 3/4 of our budget comes from interested individuals and churches. Thanks to everyone! Would you like to partner with us? You can find our banking information on the back page of this bulletin to help you send up a one-time gift or a regular bank transfer.

Internet change

With the help of one of our professors we have installed a new wifi system in the office of the Institute. It's already helping us gain a lot of time. This change has led us to change Internet providers as well. Please note our new address in your electronic address book : institut.algrange@gmail.com. Thanks ! We'd love to get an email from you.



Our web site (ibpb.org) continues to get high marks from those who visit. We invite you to take a look. When you click on "English site" you'll find information about the school and how you can partner with us in this strategic ministry.

This bulletin can also be sent to you in an email if you like. That way you can stay informed about our activities and needs. You can also print out as many copies as you like and share them with your friends. Let us know if you'd like us to put you on our email mailing list. We'd love to count you among our regular readers!