

## Update on the Lord's Move in Francophone Europe

The Lord is continuing to bless His move in French-speaking Europe. In addition to the **short-term shepherds** who continue to care for **the saints and new ones**, we also welcomed the **FTTA/FTTL trainees** for a two-week period to join us in our labor.

In the **Paris** region we are laboring in five different areas. Our view is to firstly blend with all the saints that have been here for many years. The short-term shepherds and trainees have been a real supply to these saints, and there has been the sweet flow of life. In a few short months, many new ones have been gained and added to the church.

Last November in **Lille**, we had 2 households caring for 17 new ones. Currently, we have 3 households and 24 new ones. Of the new ones, 14 have completed the 3 volumes of the *Basic Elements of the Christian Life* and are reading *The Economy of God* with us in home meetings. The next step is to establish the group meetings.

Every Saturday in **Rouen**, the saints hold 2 group meetings focused on nourishing 8 to 10 new contacts. Four of the new contacts are going to the table meeting in nearby Dieppe. There is a blended effort with saints from the UK, Dieppe, and Paris supporting the need. Three saints have recently migrated.

The church life in **Toulouse** is really blossoming. We have 4 to 7 students in the college meeting, 6 to 10 saints in the prayer meeting, and 25 to 30 gathering for the Lord's Day meeting. We have had a total of 18 new baptisms. Especially encouraging is how the new ones are developing a genuine taste for the ministry: our Life-study participation has grown from 3 to 12 attendees, with the new ones eagerly bringing their friends.

In **Luxembourg**, there are three families laboring. We have an apartment next to the university campus, which has been pivotal for the ongoing care of the students. The most recent Lord's Day meeting had 11 locals that we met from the distribution, and they all shared their enjoyment of the Lord with us.

In **Geneva, Switzerland** there are 14 saints, and 8 new ones are being cared for. The saints truly appreciate the flow in the Body and the supply of the visiting saints.

In Nanterre, Versailles, Toulouse, Rouen, and Luxembourg we have or will soon have apartments secured for the work.

Through the fellowship in the Body, there is **increasing coordination** from other countries, including **UK, Germany, Spain, Poland, Canada, and Brazil**, who are sending saints to meet the present need. We look to the Lord's continued blessing and anticipate that He would raise up **3 new lampstands in Nanterre (Paris), Lille, and Toulouse** by the middle of this year. Many cities in French-speaking Europe are ripe for harvest, and the existing churches also need shepherding and strengthening. Currently, we have 16 full-time serving ones on the team in Paris. Our original goal was to have 20 serving ones, but we now realize that if we had 50, they would all be fully occupied. We need many more saints to **migrate** in order to meet the long-term need. **May the Lord send workers to match His present move.**

## **Riga, Latvia--New Meeting Hall**

Riga is the capital of Latvia, one of the three Baltic countries in Northeastern Europe. Latvia is positioned centrally among these three countries, and Riga plays a vital role in connecting these nations and facilitating the Lord's work across the region. In addition, Latvia is part of the European Union, yet most of the saints there are Russian speaking. Hence, Riga serves as a key bridge between the Russian-speaking work and the broader work in Europe.

The church in Riga was established in 1996 through the ministry publications that reached the Russian-speaking world in the early 1990s. Today approximately 60 saints are meeting in Riga. Since its inception the church has recognized the urgent need to have its own meeting hall. Over the past 15 years the brothers have steadfastly prayed and fellowshipped regarding the acquisition of a suitable property. In 2023 the Lord graciously led us to acquire a building that aligns with the needs of the church, can serve as a blending facility, and can support the campus work.

The acquired property is a free-standing building with a total land area of 1,000 square meters (0.25 acres), with the building itself occupying 280 square meters (3000 square feet). The four-story structure offers approximately 180 square meters (2000 square feet) per floor. Its location is highly strategic, just a 10-minute drive from three major universities in Latvia, with some student dormitories only a five-minute walk away.

The cost of purchasing the building was €315,000, which the church in Riga received in full last year. In addition, saints from around the world, particularly in the Baltic and Nordic countries, contributed an additional €165,000. According to the new design, the remodeled building will include a meeting hall on the first floor that can accommodate 90 saints, expandable to 140. The basement will have three studio apartments and a bookroom. The second floor will include a children's room, the church office, and two additional apartments, while the third floor will serve as a recreation area for students.

Currently, the brothers are working on obtaining all necessary permits and finalizing the professional design. Many of the saints in Riga are experienced construction workers and are committed to reducing costs by doing much of the work themselves. However, the approval process has been lengthy, requiring multiple revisions of the design. Eventually, the city government designated the building as a historical heritage site, mandating that its exterior be preserved by using similar materials. As a result, remodeling costs have significantly increased. The total projected cost for construction work is now €575,000, with an additional €90,000 needed for furnishings, bringing the overall estimate to €665,000. The remaining financial need is €500,000.

With sufficient financial support, we anticipate completing the first floor, including the meeting hall, by the end of 2025, allowing us to begin meeting there. The ground and second floors may be finalized by the end of 2026, depending on the timely approval of plans and the availability of funds. We pray that the Lord will lead the churches and the saints worldwide to intercede for this meeting hall and to give toward its completion. May He bless this endeavor for the furtherance of His work in this region.

Offerings can be made to your local church designated "Riga meeting hall" and forwarded to LME, or they can be made directly to LME by following instructions at:

<https://lordsmove.org/offerings.html>