

FROM A FATALISTIC OUTSIDER TO A BLESSING FOR FRANCE

Genesis 12:2

“I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.”

I. Life Testimony of Bruno Aussant
(Nantes UBF, France)

I was born in 1971 in a small town in France. When I was 1 year old, a great red blemish appeared on my face. At school some boys made fun of me. I was deeply wounded, cried and asked my mother: “Why am I like this?” In the street, I turned my head if people looked at me or I changed sidewalks. I did not have enough courage and force to defy the mockers. Rebellion grew more and more viciously in me. I was not able to stop myself anymore. Then another evil spirit entered in, the demon of lust. This evil spirit led me to do all kinds of shameful acts, which left me with a sense of guilt. I felt miserable and incompetent. I had no hope and no purpose in such an existence.

When I was 18 years old, I entered university in Paris. One evening 2 Asian women knocked on my door and invited me to the Sunday Worship Service. I expected to go into a large stone church. But instead I arrived in a very small apartment, on the 6th floor without elevator. I was the only French person with a dozen Koreans around me, who welcomed me with big smiles.

Through Bible study I was impressed by the Word of God from John 9, “Jesus heals a man born blind”. I accepted that I was not to be fatalistic because of the blemish on my face. Instead God had a marvelous plan for me. I was released from my sense of inferiority and shame. I could freely walk in the street and the subway without shame.

Through Mark 5, “The healing of a demon-possessed man”, I repented sincerely of my anger and lust. I received forgiveness of God and was born again. I felt so free and filled with joy. I stopped shameful acts and instead share the grace of God through Bible study with many students. Through Genesis 12:2 I accepted God’s calling to be a source of blessing for French students. I am not the most intelligent or bright person. But God has chosen me to be the ancestor of faith of the ministry of France UBF.

I praise God who has been training me according to his call. He helped me to learn Jesus’ heart through taking care of one young French man with 1:1 Bible Study and common life. Through the collaboration and prayer of all co-workers he grew as a faithful and sacrificial Bible teacher. Over the years I had many ups and downs. But God is faithful. He blessed me to marry the most wonderful woman of faith, Msn. Christine Kwon for France mission. He also blessed us to start a ministry in Nantes in 2002. I dreamt of having a big ministry. But like Moses, God gave me desert training for the past 5 years.

Through maintaining our little ministry in Nantes God helped us to learn personal faith and depend on God alone. It is God who molds me by the storms of life and by His word into his servant. I praise God who chose me in spite of my weakness and established me as the first fruit among French students! I believe God will use France as a blessing for all French speaking countries of the world.

II. Mission report of Europe

European mission began, when Apostle Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia calling: “Come over to Macedonia and help us.”(Apg 16,9) Through Apostle Paul the first communities were established in Europe and Rom, that has been the former world power and was conquered with the gospel, so that Christianity became the official state religion in 313 AD. While the Roman-Catholic Church sold letters of indulgence, Martin Luther posted the 95 theses at the doors of the castle church of Wittenberg in 1517. After the reformation of Martin Luther in Germany, the reformation movements of Ulrich Zwingli in the Switzerland and of Jean Calvin in Genf followed up, and after that the movements in England. In this way Gospel Faith spread out in whole Europe, and by Christians like the Puritans, Pietists, the Moravian Mission, the Cambridge Seven in England, in USA, China, India, Africa it spread out into the whole world.

Christianity influenced all parts of the European culture like Philosophy, Music, Architecture and Art. But in the 20th century secularism became the impulsive power in all parts of culture in Europe. The students and the youth in Europe left Christian tradition and followed up relativism, the New-Age movement, the Buddhism, Islam and different oriental mystical cults. Moreover, because of the influence of Liberalism most protestant communities in Europe lost the absoluteness of Gospel Faith and their spiritual influence. In our days, only 10% of the Europeans attend Sunday Worship Service regularly. Europe - that has been the stronghold of Christianity – became a greenhouse of many false teachings.

First: God’s work through house churches

The work of UBF in Europe is done by mission families. The missionaries opened their house churches for their sheep, from the beginning, and invited them to common life. In this way they cared for God’s flock of sheep with the word of God and with prayer. M. James Kang’s house church in Bulgaria invited a student named George to their house church and served him and raised him as the Abraham of Faith for Bulgaria mission. After raising many more disciples of Jesus, they sent out the house church of M. Barnabas Kang as pioneers to Macedonia. In order to build house churches, they gave up much money, time, even their private lives. But God worked mightily through the devotion and co-working of those devoting house churches and planted the Gospel Faith into the hearts of many young people in Europe.

Second: Overcoming of many hindrances

The missionaries had to overcome both the European cultural barrier and to learn the language in their mission fields. For this they had to spend much time and devote themselves. Despite of this, they often had to endure many misunderstandings and hardships. They carried three or four crosses at the same time, not only to lay the foundation for their lives and to solve their visa problem, but also to learn the language in their mission field, to raise their children and to help their sheep. One missionary in Denmark needed seven years to learn the Danish language and to lay the foundation for the Danish mission. Another missionay in France made the decision, to leave his respectable life as a professor in Korea and to follow God's calling for France mission. In France he was confronted with financial problems, so that he had to deliver newspapers for some time. Then he opened a shop of Accessoires with his wife and now he supports many other missionaries.

Third: Raising up an Abraham of Faith through Bible study

M. Moses Yoon in England has been fighting with the clear prayer topic to raise one Abraham of Faith among native students in England by faith. Then God trusted him one native student Ian Kaier for One-to-one Bible study. After his work, M. Moses visited him and studied the Bible with him very intensively. His Bible student had so many questions, that even M. Moses did not know how to answer. But M. Moses Yoon believed in the absolute power of the word of God and made the decision to study the Bible more intensively, and to teach him only the word of God. By his word God worked mightily in the heart of Ian so that, after three years, he came to believe in Jesus personally. Later he made the decision to follow God's calling as a Bible teacher for the English students. God worked through him and by his good spiritual influence God led Shep. Paul, Shep. Darren and Shep. James to Bible Study and even raised his father as a Bible teacher and prayer servant for England mission. In this way God worked in Germany, France, England, Bulgaria, Switzerland, Sweden, Greece, Czech Republic and in Poland, raising up one Abraham and one Sarah of Faith in each nation. God worked through this manger ministry and raised 50 UBF Fellowships in 22 nations in Europe. In this time, there are about 223 Missionaries in Europe, 61 native shepherds and more than 54 student Second Generation missionaries.

Fourth: Raising up native spiritual leaders

In the big centers in Germany and England native Shepherds are preaching on Sunday Worship Service and serve God's work as responsible spiritual leaders. Shep. Bruno Aussant in France is pioneering Nantes and M. Vladimir Point from Kiev serves God's mission work in Turkey as a responsible leader.

Fifth: Giving spirit and responsibility for World Mission

In the past years, Europe UBF took over practical responsibility for World mission. For example, in the last year Greece UBF had a Middle-East Bible Conference in Athen and served the missionaries and

their Bible students from Middle-East practically and spiritually and supported Middle-East mission in this way. France UBF supported the Francophone nations with their Bible Conferences. And Germany UBF supports CIS-Campus Mission.

The mission strategy and prayer topics of Europe UBF for European campus Mission are: First, to continue to raise up native spiritual leaders through intensive Bible study and discipleship ministry and to build God-centered house churches. Second, to double God's work until 2010 and to pioneer all Universities in Europe with at least one house church until 2020. Third, to pioneer 43 European nations with the Gospel, especially Spain, Italy, Finland and the Netherlands within the next years.