



France

About four-fifths the size of Texas and with a population of 66 million, France has a fascinating variety of landscapes from snow-capped mountains to sandy Mediterranean beaches. Heirs to centuries of worldwide influence in the arts, philosophy, literature, cuisine and fashion, the modern-day French are ranked fourth in the world for atheism and are characterized by skepticism and materialism.

NEEDS

Although France once had a sizeable Protestant population in the 17th century (around 10 percent), persecution chased most of these Bible-believing people into more sympathetic countries. France has not had a significant evangelical population since that time.

It is estimated that there are no more than 450,000 born-again Christians today, less than 1 percent of all the French. A growing rejection of the Catholic religion as well as an ever-increasing secularism help explain the fact that 32 percent of French now declare themselves to be completely nonreligious.

Muslims make up 7.5 percent of the population and Jews 0.5 percent.

HOW YOU CAN SERVE

Many current missionaries are retiring, and the need is great for a new generation of church planters to reach this diverse population. Creative ways for sharing the gospel include surveys, literature distribution, English conversation classes, Bible clubs with an English emphasis, concerts, and drama.

France's student population of 2.4 million makes campus outreach a strategic priority.

Missionaries with advanced theological degrees can help train future church leaders at the Pastoral Baptist Bible Institute.

<http://www.ibpb.org>



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