IBPB
Institut Biblique Pastoral Baptiste
French Baptist Pastoral Bible Institute

Join our team to train the next generation of Christian leaders in the French-speaking world

Baptist Mid-Missions
Countries where French is an official language or is used for official purposes.

What is IBPB?

We are an independent college-level Bible institute serving the French-speaking world. You’ll find us in Algrange, France, just minutes from the borders of Germany, Luxembourg, and Belgium.

IBPB (French—*Institut Biblique et Pastoral Baptiste*; English—French Baptist Pastoral Bible Institute) began in 1978 as a joint project between national pastors and missionaries. It enjoys a privileged relationship with independent Baptist churches in France. Its goal was to train national pastors for churches in France as well as evangelists capable of planting new churches. Very early, however, as students from the entire French-speaking world learned of the Institute and enrolled, the school’s purpose expanded, with students pursuing missions, Christian literature, youth work, and other areas of ministry.

IBPB has thus had students from nearly every continent, and a very high percentage of them are now serving the Lord in their countries of origin. Since French ranks as the fifth language in the world in terms of native speakers, the potential impact of IBPB is great.
What are the ministry needs?

Several opportunities are open to all who want to use their gifts at IBPB in teaching, administration, library work, Internet development, and student services. Teachers are particularly needed in the areas of Greek and music, though backgrounds in church history and systematic theology would also be useful. Like missionary service around the world, all God-given experience and talents, from computer technology and accounting to office administration could be used to His glory.

Since the goal of the Institute is training for service, it is important that everyone on the staff and faculty also be involved in evangelism and church planting. Students need to be able to interact with men and women who are actively involved in the kinds of ministry that they themselves will have after graduation.
Why minister in France?

The field is the world, but no one is qualified or able to minister everywhere. In considering your place of ministry overseas it is helpful to recognize that …

• Many French pastors and missionaries are reaching retirement age. An estimated 1000 pastors are needed to fill these pulpits and start new churches, particularly in small towns and rural areas.

• France is a modern, technologically advanced country and a recognized cultural leader. While it retains much old-world charm, it also has conveniences found in the States, making the transition to France both enriching and relatively easy.

• The French language is very rich and precise but not particularly difficult to learn. Missionaries with average abilities and open spirits will find opportunities for service almost immediately and can be involved in full-time team ministry in a year or two.

• France has one of the best medical systems in the world. No health needs should keep anyone from considering service in France.

• According to the statistics of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, which has 77 member states, French is the fifth most-spoken language in the world, and the second most taught. The potential for reaching the world with the gospel through IBPB is obvious as one multiplies his knowledge and experience in the lives of national workers.
• Some former French colonies are today in politically sensitive zones where it is difficult for foreign missionaries to live and minister. Making quality Bible School training available in French on the Internet, however, breaks down those barriers—an area IBPB would like to develop.

• France is a secure country in which to minister. The political system is stable, the economy good, and personal security is comparable to most US areas.

• France is not a country where people easily turn to faith in Christ or where churches are quickly established. It is transitioning from family-oriented faith to individualistic faith. That is not always easy in a culture where people feel a greater need for social support than is often the case in the States. For missionaries determined to invest long-term and deeply in the lives of people, however, the satisfaction of seeing God work is wonderful.
Steps you can take

Take advantage of either of these options:

• **You currently have no formal Bible training but are interested in ministering in the French-speaking world:**

   Why not train for missionary service at IBPB? You could follow French courses for a year, then jump into the three-year program at IBPB, all the while fellowshipping with and helping in one of the nearby local churches. At the end of four years, the time you’d spend on an undergraduate degree in the States, you would be equipped educationally and experientially to invest your life ministering in the French-speaking world. If God led you to do that through IBPB, you would already know the school from the inside out. All these factors should also be a great asset in seeking local church support for full-time missionary service.

• **You already have Bible training or are nearing the end of your formal education:**

   As you consider your options for cross-cultural ministry, why not visit IBPB? Check out Baptist Mid-Mission’s FirstLook and Focus on France organized trips (www.bmm.org under Opportunities), or contact us directly for a visit to see how you might fit in.
You may be just the person for IBPB. We invite you to learn more and to plan a visit to explore ministry opportunities.

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