

## "Hey Kids, Let's Talk!"

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By Linda Dingeldein

**GC KIDS** is for children ages about 9 to 13. It aims to **nurture a passion for missions** that will encourage children to be active in the Great Commission throughout their lives.

This quarterly publication is mailed free to individual children or adult leaders of children. (Sorry, mailing multiple copies is not possible.)

For **suggestions, ideas or submissions**, send postal mail via the address below or email [elinor.young@worldteam.org](mailto:elinor.young@worldteam.org).

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Issue 9: France

### When God Changes our Plans

**M**aybe you are like I was as a child. I was nine years old when I first thought that maybe God wanted me to be a missionary when I grew up. As I became sure of that, the first question was, "Where?" and the next was, "How will I know?"

At first I was very interested in Native American history and culture. Was that where God wanted me to serve? Then there was a time when I was almost sure God wanted me to reach children in the high-rise apartment buildings of Hong Kong. In the end, God used people, events, knowledge and interests to lead me to a different place and people group. Do you think you know where God wants you to serve Him? Keep in mind that **God may change your plans!**

—Elinor Young



### No Accident

By Jerry Moyer

**I**n the south of France, the high Alps come down out of Switzerland and throw themselves into the Mediterranean sea. Every year hundreds of thousands of tourists pass through these mountains to ski in the winter and hike in the summer. Often the world famous bicycle race, Le Tour de France, passes through this region. It is a severe test of will and strength to peddle to the top of these hills. There, on the edge of a shining mountain lake in the village of Embrun, Baptiste grew

up dreaming of one day becoming a professional bicycle racer himself. He rode every day, and twice a week he also went way down into the valley for a trumpet lesson. It was hard to decide



which he liked more, music or bicycle racing, but for the moment he was able to do both.

One day he was on his way down the mountain. He came around a sharp turn at full speed and ran head on into a car coming up the hill around the same corner. It was days before he regained consciousness but a friend who was on the scene told me that it was gruesome. Baptiste had flown head first into the hood of the car. They only barely expected him to live.

A few weeks later this same friend sat beside a recovering Baptiste. "You know, Baptiste," he said, "you really should have died in that accident."

Baptiste knew he was right. He went on. "I have one question for you. Why do you think God spared your life?" Baptiste had never thought much about God up till that point. But now he began to wonder and that question played in his mind. "Why was my life spared?" He found a Bible and began to read. He had a lot of time on his hands, not being able to leave the hospital yet. He started at the beginning and read right on through to the end.

Baptiste left the hospital with three goals: never to race bicycles again, to go to Paris and study trumpet and to learn more about the God he found in the pages of the Bible. This is when I met him. He found our church in the phone directory. I say "church", but at the time it was more like a Bible study in our living room. If Baptiste had come just a few years earlier he



Jesus right away when Paul went there. As a result, the rest of the world heard the Gospel sooner because of all the European missionaries who went to other countries.

Now, in today's world, much of Europe (including most of France) no longer knows the Gospel, but Asia is sending out thousands of missionaries!

### Think About It

God used two ways to show Paul that he wanted Paul to go to Europe. They were:

1. Things the \_\_\_\_\_ did.
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ God gave Paul.



**We can be sure that God will show us where He wants us, too!**

Are these sentences true or false:

- God will show me at the right time where He wants me to go and what He wants me to do.  
True \_\_\_\_\_ False \_\_\_\_\_
- I will head in a direction I think is God's will...  
True \_\_\_\_\_ False \_\_\_\_\_
- ...But I will be ready for God to show me a different plan.  
True \_\_\_\_\_ False \_\_\_\_\_

### About the Board Game (page 4 & 5)

Remember, as with Baptiste in our story, nothing on life's road just happens. God guides it all!

#### Did you know?

- France today is one of the most modern countries in the world and is a leader among European nations.
- Only a little over 1% of the population of France is Evangelical (true followers of Christ); 67% are Roman Catholic; 20% Non-religious; 10% are Muslim and the other 5% a mix of other beliefs.
- Most French people say they are Roman Catholic, but only a very small number attend their church.

## The Great Commission

Look in Acts 16:6-10 for the missing words in this story:

Missionary Paul and his team wanted to go to Asia, but the \_\_\_\_\_ kept them from doing that. Maybe wondering why, one night Paul had a vision, like a strong dream. A man of \_\_\_\_\_ said to him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After that, Paul and his

\_\_\_\_\_ missionary team quickly got ready to leave for Macedonia, which is in Europe. They knew that \_\_\_\_\_ wanted them to preach the gospel there, in Europe, not in Asia.

Was that important? YES! Most of the people of Asia would not be ready for many hundred years to believe the Gospel, form churches and send out missionaries. But Europe was ready to believe in

would have found no protestant church nearby. He came almost every Sunday and after about three months he asked if he could be baptized. "I think I have always believed there was a God," he told me, "but now I know that I want to give my life to Him."

A few months later Baptiste was enrolled in a Bible school. That question, "Why do you think God spared your life?" kept running through his mind. In the meantime he helped out a lot at the church. I had him lead worship and preach from time to time. Our little church was growing. First we were ten, then twenty, then thirty and forty at worship.

That summer, Baptiste joined a music group that toured France singing gospel songs. I got to go to one of his concerts. The musicians were great but my attention was drawn to a beautiful young woman who was translating the songs for the deaf. The words flowed from her hands but the music flowed from her whole face and being. I could see that the small group of deaf people were enjoying the concert even though they could not hear a note. Her name was Emilie and before

the end of the summer she and Baptiste decided to be married.



By now our church was well on its way to being established. We had Sunday school and a youth group for middle school and high school. Baptiste came over to talk with me. "I have the answer," he said. "I have given it a lot of thought and now I know why God spared my life." Then he explained that he wanted to be a church-starting pastor just like me. Today Baptiste and Emilie are starting a church just fifteen minutes from us.

There are dozens of towns within twenty minutes of us that have no evangelical church but if God keeps bringing us people like Baptiste, very soon that will change. ■

The author of this story grew up in Guadeloupe, a French overseas department, an island in the Caribbean. His parents were missionaries there, just like Jerry and his wife are now in France.

