



The Lalondes and 2011 News from Québec

« Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart »

In His infinite wisdom, God has used that verse to draw us to Him in July 1976. This morning, on this Tuesday December 6 2011 as François and I were reading 2 Chronicles 6, we were reminded once again that God honours those who honour him and delight in Him. Like Solomon, we ask the Lord to give us wisdom and knowledge in all we do and say, as we relate to our children, grandchildren, friends and all those God sends our way in the ministry.

In this season of our lives, God continues to provide for all our needs. He also gives us the assurance to be where He wants us to be. My heart is filled with His joy each time I am given the opportunity to train new and seasoned leaders in the Awana program; yet that joy is surpassed by the desire to see our dear grandchildren come to know, love and serve Jesus Christ. What a blessing we had last July to spend a week with them at Camp des Bouleaux. And the same sparks continues to prompt us each time one of them expresses his or her excitement to come back next summer for another week, alone with grand-papa and grand-maman.



Very recently, I realized I was starting a fifth year as Awana Missionary. I am encouraged that the Creator of the universe wants to use my small lunch in His mighty hands to develop the pioneering work in the province of Québec with a very precious tool. Awana is a wonderful program to reach boys and girls with the Gospel of Christ and train them to know, love and serve Him. In as much as I am amazed with what the Lord has done over those last four years, I anticipate with much eagerness to watch what He will do in the coming years.

None other than the God of Abraham has opened the doors for a joint effort with Child Evangelism Fellowship. The CEF Quebec staff has a burden to train people to reach kids all across the province with the Good News of Jesus Christ. The Awana staff has that same burning desire. What better way to accomplish this than to team up and work together? The two ministries combine their resources to provide five Saturday conferences spread across Quebec, four in French and one in English. And what is the result of all this? Nearly five hundred children workers coming from some 90 different churches and Bible camps have been blessed and encouraged by one of these training sessions which will enable them to reach and teach children in their own areas far more effectively.

This year's theme, "Every Minute Counts" was a reminder to build into the lives of the children using every opportunity and every moment that we are given. If you were among those who attended one of the conferences in 2011, thank you for being with us and we hope you were encouraged! By the grace of God, the same dynamic team will soon begin planning for the 2012 conferences. Be watching early next year for more details.



This Children Ministry Conference approach to introduce Awana in the province of Québec is without a doubt under God's good hand. Many churches want to know more about the Awana program, a tool that wants to bless the ministry of the church. But it does not stop there; I had the privilege of representing Awana once again at MissionsFest, at the FEBCC congress, at Sola, at Camp Patmos, and accepting the invitation to present Awana in many churches.

And what can be said of the continuing effort and fruits connected with the translation and reproduction of Awana material in French. Big giant steps were made in that area en 2011. I am convinced that this is the direct result of your fervent prayers and your generous financial support. We now have the complete two-year program for the little 3-4 year old Cubbies. My own church uses the Cubbies program les « Oursons » and it is a true source of blessings for our young mothers. Many other churches also used « les Oursons » in their Sunday School programming. The 3-year cycle for Sparks « Les Flammèches » is almost completed; handbooks 1 and 2 are already in use while the third one should be available early in the new year. The leaders' supporting material will be available sometime in 2012. For our T&Ters, club V.I.E. (vérité, instruction, engagement), it is already in full strength in French. And already we are starting to plan the translation of the long-awaited TREK material for our Junior Highers. BUT the eyes of the French evangelical **world** are turning on the new French Awana material, in Europe, in Africa. To God be the glory!

It would not be sufficient to say that we count on your prayers; we desperately covet your effective prayers, pleading the Lord to save and change of lives of those He draws to himself. And if you are benefiting and are thankful for the ministry of Awana to reach children and youth with the Gospel, we would greatly appreciate every gift you send.

May the peace of God and the wondrous Spirit of Christmas fill your heart today and always.