

# Reaching Out TO College Students IN France

by Jean-Luc Tabailoux



Since 1973, thanks to the collaboration of various missionaries with an open brethren assembly in Grenoble, France, hundreds of college students have come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Grenoble and its suburbs is a high-tech city composed of 400,000 inhabitants. With a college of 70,000 students coming from all over the world, there are many opportunities to reach out to the elite of tomorrow. The Foyer Evangélique Universitaire de Grenoble - St Martin d'Hères (FEU) is an open house where scores of students pass through weekly. Some come for the high speed Internet room they can use free of charge. Others come to play fuss-ball, while others come to have lunch with friends or their small group, and yes, believe it or not, some even come to do their homework. Meals, concerts and topical debates are organized on questions such as: "If God exists, then why is there so much suffering and injustice?" It is very easy in this kind of setting to bring friends who are asking such questions.

From the start this open house was conceived as a "decompression chamber" between a highly secular environment in which college students live, and the local church which is like "planet mars" for most. It is a fantastic place with a great team with one heart for evangelism and discipleship.

This open house is now run by a team of college students and missionaries who are accountable to a board composed of leaders from various open brethren assemblies in town. Currently, three girls live upstairs and give a soul to the house. Some are students, others work part-time and dedicate the rest of their free time to serve in this highly intensive hospitality ministry.

Fortunately, they are part of a team made up of various college students and one missionary who help run the outreach and discipleship programs. The Christian college students come from

many different churches, a good deal of them from brethren churches in town. The ministry was designed to fully integrate the local churches in the process in order to keep this ministry centered. Every leader at FEU is coached and disciplined by someone mature in the faith from their home church in town.

There are many and varied opportunities to serve, whatever your gifts are. Whether it is in leading small groups, growth groups, outreach Bible studies for skeptics, going out surveying in the dorms, music, or cooking—it is being done in French, English and even Chinese these past few years.

**LONG-TERM HELP NEEDED:** We are looking for a full-time couple willing to serve on the premises by living upstairs in a missionary position. Their role would be to help coordinate the work in fellowship with the college team and assembly board of directors. If apologetics in a post modern world, discipleship, evangelism and hospitality run in your blood, and if teamwork is your cup of tea, why not consider applying for this position with your spouse? If you are a couple, (children welcome), the commitment would preferably be two to four years. Some French speaking or at least a will to learn would be helpful.

**SHORT-TERM HELP NEEDED:** If you are interested in short-term missions, or if you are single and only have a couple of semesters to dedicate to this task, you could also be a full-timer on the team, living either on the premises or in a fraternity of Christian college students. It is also possible to help in this work by coming as a college student and give some of your free time to help out in the ministry. Positions are still open for the fall of 2012. If you want to know more, drop us an e-mail: [contact@lefeu.org](mailto:contact@lefeu.org), and we'll organize an interview by Skype. You can also visit our Web site: [www.lefeu.org](http://www.lefeu.org).

This ministry has been such a blessing throughout the years that FEU is in full branch off mode in various college towns across the country. A number of staff or leaders are former col-



lege students who were saved or disciplined at FEU in Grenoble.

The "FEU de France" will officially be constituted in a few months. It will serve as a link in the emerging network. It will help in conjunction with local churches represented on the board, to safeguard the vision, provide training to the new staff, ideas, some resources and common projects to the six different branches of this growing ministry in France.

#### WHAT IS OUR VISION?

The vision can be summed up in one sentence and three key ideas: FEU exists to reach out and disciple college students in France, in partnership with the local churches that request its services.



Its features are:

**Staff:** Full-time, single or married, to help in the coordination and training.

**Churches:** FEU is not a church, but an environment that serves as a doorway to the local churches who request a partnership with this ministry in order to serve their college population.

**Premises:** In order for the students to have a place they can call their own, preferably a house with people or a family living on the spot to welcome them.

The more the workers, the faster we'll reach out to this most open sector of the French population for the gospel. Could it be for you? Why don't you check us out? ■



*Jean-Luc Tabailoux and his wife Jeanne were commended to the work of the Lord in France by several assemblies in the U.S., beginning in 1985.*

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