



Prayer for France & USA (10th ~ 16th Apr.)



	France	USA
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area: 543,965 sq km • Population: 62,636,580 • Annual Growth: 0.53% • Capital: Paris • Urbanites: 77.8% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area: 9,529,063 sq km • Population: 317,641,087 • Annual Growth: 0.97% • Capital: Washington DC • Urbanites: 82%
Peoples/ Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peoples: 101 (33% unreached) • Official language: French • Languages: 62 • Christians 38,296,005 (61.14%) • Evangelicals 603,192 (1.0%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peoples: 364 (16% unreached) • Official language: English • Languages: 176 • Christians: 246,553,012 (77.62%) • Evangelicals: 91,764,554 (28.9%)
Prayer	<p>The accelerating decline of religious faith since the 18th Century has seen France's Catholic and mainline Protestant legacies plummet in recent years, even as atheism has grown. Hostility toward organized religion as well as the privatization of spirituality mean that regular attendance in any church is below 8%. Some surveys show that over 30% of French people are non-religious. Most French have a profound ignorance of, or indifference to, the gospel, many having never meaningfully encountered it. Yet, the relativism of postmodernity has generated acute emptiness and existential angst; as many have noted, this in turn has created a spiritual hunger that has grown rapidly in recent years. Pray that such hunger might overcome the suspicion toward religion. Pray that Christians would be prepared to patiently and relationally share Jesus with those who seek.</p> <p>Protestants were accepted at the Reformation, and at one stage some estimate that up to 25% of the French population had embraced the new teaching. But persecution (from the mid-16th Century until the late 18th Century), humanism and nominalism (in the last 200 years) have reduced this to 1.9% in 2010. Protestantism – though widely respected – is spiritually compromised by liberal theology, universalism and the acceptance of contradictory doctrinal and ethical views. Protestants are more numerous in Alsace and the south, but nominalism and decline are common. Yet there are staunch evangelical believers in most Reformed and Lutheran congregations. Pray for restoration to the faith and commitment shown by their martyr forebears.</p>	<p>a) Young people at risk. Over half of inner-city black males fail to complete secondary school. Many are in prison or in gangs. Poverty, drugs and violence are rampant. Murder is the major cause of death for inner-city, African-American males ages 15 to 34. Pray for an expression of Christian faith that enables these men to leave their shackles and find meaning, belonging and fulfillment in Christ.</p> <p>b) African-American Muslims, whose numbers have rapidly grown up to two million – most of these from a Christian background. Sunnis account for the largest proportion; some small but vocal minorities belong to Black nationalist groups and to the Nation of Islam organization. Most were drawn to Islam as a result of failings in the Church. Pray for effective and loving outreach to them.</p> <p>c) Black churches. More than any other race in the USA, African-Americans are likely to be Christian. Many of the largest and most vigorous evangelical churches are Black, but they are often isolated from mainstream evangelical Christianity and from meaningful involvement in missions. Pray for a unity of believers that transcends ethnicity. Pray for a new move of the Spirit of God in these churches.</p> <p>d) Community impact. African-American churches have always had a strong redemptive influence in their communities. This is increasing as congregations now join to effect deliberate and strategic transformation in the neediest areas.</p>
Alumni	1 alumni of ACTS are currently in ministry in France .	93 alumni of ACTS are currently in ministry in USA.