

WESTERN EUROPE AREA

Javier (Gema) Garcia

- Italian “Magdalena”: Pray for wisdom as they finish the film lip-sync and praying for the right strategy for women to use this new film in Italy!
- France: Pray for the “Magdalena” strategy through the cities and women’s partnerships through churches.
- Praise for follow-up couples discussion held prior to summer break! Six attending in Rennes. Pray for continued contact with couples.
- Spain: Pray for networking with women’s groups across Spain to launch “Magdalena” later this fall.
- Portugal: Pray for wisdom in using “Magdalena” for first time in Portugal this fall or winter!

AUSTRIA

Praise:

- GAiN - Many Austrians participated in a project for Haiti. Praise God for the money that was raised for this effort.
- Crescendo - A catholic monastery organized The Journey (an interactive pilgrimage), which was very successful. Now they have ordered 15 books of this journey.
- Pray that we would see The Journey all over Austria, especially in Catholic environments.
- An airline hostess helped us in the office because she was unemployed for some weeks. She was a tremendous help in a very busy time.

Prayer requests:

- Some of our staff members have health problems, which limits our working capacity. Pray especially in one case where a real breakthrough is needed.
- GAiN - We would like to see GAiN as the humanitarian arm of small churches and communities which in themselves would never have capacity to start a project on their own.
- On January 6 we started up the Austrian Internet ministry “Knowing God.” We have had 90 contacts in three months. Now we are looking for partnerships with churches, communities, organizations and business people to make this Web site known all over Austria.
- Especially for the student ministry and AIA ministry, we need more staff members to be able to expand the work all over Austria.

CYPRUS

- Praise God for some really good contacts with high school teachers who are more than willing use the “JESUS” film and the New Testament with their students.
- Pray for all those people who have received the “JESUS” DVD and the New Testament in response to an advertisement in a magazine.

FINLAND

- May 1: Christ Day in Tampere and the Nordic Seminar - We are involved as one among many organizations but do not have the main responsibility this time for its organization. Markku Happonen, however, is very involved in planning it.
- Pray for plans for more radio programs.
- Pray for guidance in planning how to reach out to immigrants, together with other organizations and churches.
- Confirmation camps start the beginning of June. Teenagers come for ten days to study basics of the Christian faith. Pray many would come to know the Lord.
- May 15: Vivamo Bible Village – The summer season opens. Pray that the gospel message in the plays would touch hearts.
- June 16-18: Pray for our summer festival which includes outreach opportunities. Pray for all the arrangements.

FRANCE

Praise:

- For our teams all over France (Phi. 1:27).
- For the way He is truly changing the lives of young and old all around France (Col. 1.6).
- For the passion among our teams to truly and creatively win, build and send – using various means like an exposition about the life of Martin Luther King, photography, Wii, events for families; the Internet, an exposition about the abolition of slavery, women's outreach, and short films.
- For the women's movement we're seeing develop in Rennes. Our evangelistic women's breakfasts are very popular with Christians and non-believers alike, who invite their friends to other gatherings organized by Agapé, as well inviting their husbands and families.
- Around 100 people attended a showing of the film "Magdalena," a large majority of them being seekers. About 30 left their personal info so they could be re-contacted, and 11 were interested in joining a Bible discussion group. Please pray for the follow-up and for an ever-increasing impact of the women's movement on the town of Rennes and all over Brittany.

Prayers:

- That the Lord would continue to give us unity of heart and purpose in our various cities.
- That we would be a blessing to the nations (Psalm 67) – the Athletes in Action team going to South Africa for the World Cup; short-term efforts in Burkina Faso; student trips around Europe; and STINT in East Asia.
- For our fund-raising efforts in France – that God would give us sensitivity and courage to ask people to support our ministry and our staff within France. At the same time, pray we would not become lovers of money.
- For creativity and audacity in evangelism, depth and courage in discipleship, and generosity and joy in sending!

GERMANY

- May is the deadline for student summer projects in Uganda, USA, Taizé/France, Asia and other locations. Pray for many students to sign up and make the most of these opportunities.
- Our media ministry is going through major shifts. Pray for the Lord to be honored in all decisions. Pray for local churches to develop a sense of ownership for “JESUS” film projects and Internet evangelism.
- Our nine- month course in evangelism, discipleship and church ministry is being re-designed. Pray for the right people to join and for the course to be accepted and promoted in churches.
- Athletes in Action International has produced a new soccer DVD called "The Prize - Chasing the Dream." In Europe this is being translated into seven languages, with another four being subtitled. This is a great opportunity for CCC and AIA to resource churches and believers to give friends and colleagues a quality evangelistic product. With the World Cup starting in June, all thoughts in Europe will be on soccer.
- Please pray for the DVD to get into the rights hands and for God's spirit to touch people as they watch it.
- Pray for long-term aid for Haiti. For people to be helped effectively to survive and ultimately, build up their country again. For many to meet Christ!
- May 12-16: Our all-staff retreat deals with the issue of relationships. Pray for staff to be encouraged and for everyone to meet the Lord in a new way.
- June 7-9: Retreat of German leadership team. Pray for wisdom in all decisions and for mutual encouragement.

ITALY

Praise:

- That Rome acquired 50 new contacts, with 20 of them being spiritually interested contacts through two weeks of spring break students. Pray that the Lord would give them wisdom and discernment in how to spend their time and in whom to invest.
- That the film “Magdalena” will have its premiere in Italy April 27. Pray for the event itself - for the organizational details of the event to fall into place, that the evening would be an enjoyable and eye-opening time for those who attend, and that the discussion helps give dignity to the voice of women and helps people feel the need for a true change of heart.
- That an Italian staff couple have stepped into a lead role on the National Team.

Pray:

- For smooth transitions, patience, clear communication, and unity as the ministry evolves in Italy.
- That as the year comes to a close for STINTers, they would be encouraged and finish strong.

GREECE

Pray:

- For ongoing cooperation with the Greek Orthodox Church since we believe this is going to be the key for our access to the Greek Orthodox people in Greece.
- About spreading our vision for the Natural Church Development to become a vibrant movement among the ranks of the Greek Church (Eastern Orthodox, Catholic, Evangelical) and to help the Church to grow both in quality and quantity. Our vision is to equip leaders and churches for healthy growth and multiplication.
- About development of a national norm for the NCD Survey on the basis of a sufficient number of sample churches, the first church growth statistic base in the history of the Greek Church.
- For hundreds of couples nationwide to turn to the Marriage Course to learn tools for healthy and happy marriages. Ask God to use the course to build bridges between non-Christian and Christian couples on the common ground of strengthening their marriage relationship.
- That God will bless the beginning of the “Magdalena” ministry in Greece and that He will touch the hearts of women in Greece with love. We are asking for guidance on this ministry, for people who will be involved and for good promotional ideas relevant to the Greek culture.
- For the Backgammon Tournament which will take place this May on Aristotle University in Thessaloniki. This is a great opportunity to make new friends, explain who Agape Student is, and have opportunities to challenge students to have interest in their spiritual lives. Please pray that the relationship with the university will continue to grow in trust through this event.
- For a successful event with the film “Fireproof” at the Library Amphitheater of Aristotle University on 13 May. Pray that students will be touched and interested to participate in discussion groups.
- That God would choose the end of this semester to move in the hearts of students in Athens. We have many different summer projects arriving – please pray that they will be able to make friends and have the opportunity to share the gospel message in a relevant way. We are trusting God to bring five people to faith in Athens by the end of this academic year.
- That spring will be an important season when students and families will be drawn by the Holy Spirit into a true relationship with our Savior.

Praise the Lord for the new students who have accepted Jesus into their life this year! Please pray for their spiritual growth and for the small groups with other interested students.

LATVIA

- June 4-5 seminar on self-confidence for women: Pray for wisdom in the planning process and that God would be preparing the hearts of the women who need to come – both Christians and non-Christians.
- Pray for relationships to develop with key people working in pedagogical universities.
- Pray for God to provide “survival kit” materials for first-year teachers through individuals and businesses. These kits will hopefully be delivered personally to new teachers in the fall so that they can hear about opportunities for both professional and spiritual growth through Agape.
- Pray for current workplace disciples to want to become spiritual multipliers within their spheres of influence.
- Please pray for the emerging leaders in the campus ministry. Pray that we challenge them well in leading ministries in their own universities.

LITHUANIA

Praises:

- We are thankful that our students are starting to feel ownership for the ministry.
- Praise God for a few new believers.
- We started the process of registering Agape as an official student group at the university.

Prayer requests:

- To finish the process of Agape registration as a student club, which will be difficult (lots of opposition).
- For student-led ministry that is staff-directed to be a reality, that students would continue to take more and more ownership.
- For great preparation for Freshman Camps in August, where we are invited to participate with our Effective Studies Seminars.
- That each staff member would have his/her whole support developed.
- For male leaders – both staff and student leaders.

NETHERLANDS

Praise:

- Praise God for completion and launch of a new version of the Internet course, WhyJesus? project in April 2010. Online seekers will have opportunity to discover what the Christian faith is and who Jesus is through this interactive journey of five weeks, assisted by a personal e-coach through Why.Jesus.net .
- We are grateful for the consolidation of the (renewed version) new staff training and ministry partner development programs. Praise God for the steps and leaps of faith made by many new and present staff with regards to their roles, responsibilities and support.

Prayer items:

- For development of min-websites (widgets) for churches so that they can present the gospel in a simple way and lead people to the Lord. A test will be done this spring and hopefully can be launched in autumn 2010.
- Agape Netherlands launched a new slogan this year “Agape, Sharing your life.” Pray that we can influence society by the testimonies of a life dependent on God, whether it be at home, work, sports club, in the neighbourhood or anywhere else. Pray too that our lives will inspire others (Christians or non-Christians) to do the same.
- In the light of the new focus of Agape Netherlands (direct discipleship) some ministries have to re-evaluate and translate in their ministries the practical consequences of this choice. Please pray with us through this process and that the result will strengthen our faith and bring more to God and honour Him.
- AIA Netherlands is organizing about 34 national and international projects from May to Aug. Most of the projects (Road2Africa) will centre around the World Cup Championships for Soccer. Please pray for participants that they will have a passion for the King that can overcome any obstacles. Pray too for the preparation phase, church contacts and logistics.

PORTUGAL

- Praise God for the presence of Agape Portugal in Lisbon, since Sept., for our staff couple and for the contacts and activities Agape is promoting in our capital city.
- April 10: Praise God for the first conference "Women with a Purpose" and for the distribution of the "Magdalena-Released from Shame" DVD to all women present. Pray for the respective follow-up.
- Praise God for our student ministry and especially for the opportunity our staff and disciples had to minister to students at two high schools during the month of March.
- Pray for our children's home, the Dawn Refuge, for the children, the staff and the many opportunities to minister to the community. Pray for wisdom to deal and comply with several legal and bureaucratic requirements.

SPAIN

- Pray for every person in this country to have the opportunity to hear the gospel and for leaders who can hold firm despite the difficulties and be an example of God's fidelity and love.
- Pray for preparations for our Spain National meeting, April 29 - May 2, and for God's wisdom in everything we do.
- "Christians for Terrassa" (evangelical Protestants and Roman Catholics) have joined efforts with us to show God's love to the city. On May 4 we have a "DAMASCUS" showing in the Cine Catalunya (Catalonia Movie). Pray for many people to be able to come out for the showing.
- Buen Virus (Good Virus) is a new project for artists, with the main purpose of restoring broken relationships. The project is scheduled for July but there will be a presentation to the people we would like to engage on 7 May; pray for many to join us.
- From May 6-9 during the Comic Fair, we will have the presentation of "File Zero." Pray for God's control in all preparations and also for the people who may be interested in this tool.
- On 14 May an AIA basketball team (USA) will be playing in the prison Quatre Camins in Barcelona. Pray for the testimony that will be given to the prisoners.

SWEDEN

Praise God for the students involved in discipleship and learning to share their faith at Uppsala University.

SWITZERLAND

- We pray that the Family Life courses would be visited more and more by couples that are un-churched. Though the course is not explicitly evangelist there is always the potential to tell of our loving God.
- Pray for people to register for the Ultimate Training Camp, 21-24 May, in Goldach. Pray also for protection for the Windsurf+Kite Camp, 5-19 June in Denmark.
- Pray that more confirmation classes would use the Youth Alpha Material.
- For those in the current Alphas and Familylife courses to make decisions for life with Jesus.
- For the conference "Life in Freedom" 13-15 May, a training for discipleship and follow-up.

The tourism film "More Than Chocolate and Cheese" continues to be received well. A taxi driver in Geneva hands out the DVD to each of his customers. An event host gives it out to each of his guests whether it is a wedding or a business event. Mothers are handing it out at playgrounds. Pray that this film will be used to touch the hearts of people to be open to the good news.

UNITED KINGDOM

- Ask for God's guidance for an efficient, long-term strategy for raising central funds.
- The Agapé Student Life team at UCL in London has been trying out different ways to serve the university as practical demonstrations of Christ's love. Pray for ideas for service that will clearly get noticed and stimulate discussion about Christians' motivations.
- Pray for Christian students, recent graduates and academics working in mathematics and sciences. May their faith grow strong as they develop in their fields, emboldened to communicate the gospel.

Many people are being interviewed in April to join Agapé. Pray that the staff and the applicants will know a clear sense of God's calling.