

Serve

Join CBF field personnel in ministry to immigrants in France

Martha came to Marseilles, France, from Egypt several years ago, searching for a better life. With very little, she, her husband and three children had to adjust to a new culture and new language.

Though life has been difficult, Martha has found friends and opportunities to serve through the ministry of CBF field personnel David and Julie Brown. Martha is just one of the thousands of immigrants who are building a new home in Marseilles, a city rich in history.

Part of that history includes the persecution of Protestants during the reign of King Louis XIV in the late 1600s. Many Protestants were held captive in a prison just outside the Marseille port.

“To this day, the time of persecution is remembered by Protestants as if it were a recent event,” David said. “A great challenge is the reticence on the part of the churches to really move toward welcoming the world of immigrants around them.”

The Browns have ministered among immigrants since 2002. In 2010, they moved to Marseilles, located on the southern coast of France. Many immigrants travel to Europe with the hope of finding a job and earning money to support their families



CBF PHOTO

Julie Brown, second from right, leads a weekly art activity with women from North Africa.

back home. Many struggle with basic needs, leaving them among Europe’s most neglected and vulnerable populations.

“Being a port city, Marseilles has always been a city of migrants. This is especially true today,” Brown said. “Over a third of the inhabitants are immigrants, and if you count second and third generations, over half are. You will find immigrants from all over the world but the majority are from North Africa.”

The Browns see immigration as an open

door to ministry opportunities. They are members of and work with a local French-speaking church, partner with the Union of Evangelical Reformed Churches and work with Mosaic, the union of immigrant congregations.

They also minister to Muslim immigrants through an association, Marhaban, which means “welcome” in Arabic. Ministry includes a coffeehouse, music, language classes, arts and crafts classes, concerts and youth activities.

SERVE

Are you interested in serving alongside the Browns in France? Check out these specific opportunities or to learn more, contact Chris Boltin at engage@thefellowship.info.

Bible Study

Ministers or lay leaders needed to lead Bible studies for women, Vacation Bible School and other teaching sessions.
When: Various dates Length: One week

Music Ministry

Music groups are needed to perform at local immigrant and French churches.
When: Various dates Length: One week

Art and Crafts Ministry

Individuals or teams with skills and experience in the arts are needed to lead art activities with local women’s group.
When: Various dates Length: A few days or a week

Construction

Individuals and teams are needed to help with repair and renovation projects for immigrant churches.
When: Various dates Length: One week