

## A Note from Louisiana

I am writing this at 3:00 Am on Thursday April 11<sup>th</sup> as I am wide awake and want to share with you some of the experiences we have had.

While we enjoy the beauty, people, culture and food here in Louisiana (and the 80 F weather) my focus is to share and encourage Christians in the work of the gospel both here in Louisiana in Cape Breton and to share Jesus Christ with lost people.

Here is a little account of Gordon Cormier and Pierre Chiasson's travels and experiences in Louisiana. We flew out of Sydney Cape Breton on April the 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:35 PM and connected to a flight from Halifax to Newark and then to Houston. We landed in Houston at midnight and slept in the airport and left for Lafayette at 7:11 Am. We arrived in Lafayette after 8:00 AM only to discover that my guitar got left behind somewhere. They did deliver it to the house that evening. We went to bed when we got to Louis' house and slept till late afternoon.

Louis is an evangelist and church planter in many Cajun villages. He is a tireless worker for the Kingdom of God. In spite of having serious surgery for cancer only about a month ago he insisted that we come on this trip and he is constantly on the go with a passion for the souls of men and women. That passion is not confined to the area that he is working in but it extends all the way to Cape Breton.

On Sunday morning we went to Washington Baptist Church and I addressed the adult Sunday school class. I spoke on John 12 -Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies it remains alone.

Then Gordon and I led the worship at the church service and I preached on the word "Come" in the Bible.

1. Come for cleansing,
2. Come with your burdens and find rest and
3. If you are thirsty come and drink

This service was video recorded and will be available online soon.

They had a wonderful meal after the service. They call it "dinner on the ground" even though we had it in their fellowship hall.

That evening we shared in at First Baptist Church of Opelousas. It was a mission's presentation to describe gospel work in Cape Breton. We had an awesome time singing and giving an overhead presentation. Gordon sang a special called "The Family Bible" and I shared from Luke 14 on the great invitation. They took up a love offering to help with the work in Cheticamp with over \$600 dollars given.

On Monday we visited a mission for migrant workers situated on the grounds of Evangeline Downs which is a racetrack facility. There were about 1200 purebred horses and migrant workers from Mexico, Central and South America are hired to look after them. They hire a few hundred of these workers to look after the horses so they come and are months away from their families sending every dollar they can back home to feed their families. It reminded me of Cape Bretoners doing the same thing for their families over the last 150 years. For the most part they only speak Spanish. The mission has a drop-in center for them and teaches English and shares the gospel of Jesus Christ. They have gospel meetings on Monday nights there. It is all volunteer work that people from the surrounding churches are involved in.

On Monday evening we went to a men's prayer meeting in a home. There were about 12 men there and we had a wonderful time of sharing and praying. I spoke about the praying of Elijah and the fruit of it and read an excerpt from the book "A Parson's Adventure" to show how prayer can bring the blessing of God.

On Tuesday we went to a nursing home for seniors at Ville Platte and shared the gospel there. Gordon and Louis and I shared music and I preached the gospel, sharing how Jesus was the way the truth and the life and the doorway to salvation.

One lady had lots of questions and afterwards prayed to receive Christ as her Savior.

From there we went to a Christian School and we shared in their French class singing some French and English gospel songs and sharing about the culture and the gospel work in Cape Breton. Gordon spoke in French to them

but I spoke in English. We talked about the connection between the Cajuns and the Acadians. Many of the children have similar names to the ones at home such as Leblanc and Cormier and Chiasson and Boudreau etc. I also shared with them how I had become a Christian and urged them to put their trust in the Lord.

The Lord gave me an opportunity to share with a Jehovah's Witness man at a gas station. He had no understanding of the free gift of salvation but was diligently trying to earn his right to an afterlife. May God open his eyes to see the Savior of the world and the fullness of salvation offered through Him. Oh how glorious the gospel of Jesus Christ is! To think that anyone may come to Jesus Christ and receive a free and full pardon for all sins and be given blessed assurance of a home in Heaven in the presence of God. It is not our work that saves us but the finished work of Jesus Christ dying for our sins on a cross. That's good news in Louisiana and Cape Breton and to the ends of the earth.

On Wednesday we left for Baton Rouge at around 2: PM to share at First Baptist Church of Baton Rouge. It is about an hour and a half away from where we are. On Wednesday evenings they have a meal and missions presentation. There were about 50 people present. We did a presentation of the work in Cape Breton and the sharing of the new church plant in Cheticamp. We could sense the presence of God in the meeting as I spoke on the value of a Savior and the value of a soul. They took up a love offering for the work in Cheticamp with over \$400 given.

Today (Thursday) we are going to Morgan City which is down towards the Gulf. We are having a day conference to bring together people who are interested in strengthening ties between the Cajuns and Acadians in the work of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In the evening we will go to a relatively new church plant in Catahoula. We were there last year and it is a small building filled with eager young believers. Louis says it is growing with people being saved and they are outgrowing their building.

A remarkable event occurred yesterday. Brother Louis had to go to the Department of Motor Vehicles to get some paperwork done. The lady that was serving him at the counter had something about Jesus on her desk. Louis was thinking, "After we finish our business I will talk about Christ with her". In the course of their conversation she said she knew who he was although he did not know her. She said that a couple of men from Nova Scotia last year had changed the direction of her life. She said that she was a Christian but was not walking close to the Lord and sharing the good news of the gospel. She attended a meeting where those men spoke about the need of being on a mission in your own town and being committed to the work of the gospel in your local church. God convicted her and totally transformed her walk and she has become a vibrant Christian who is now involved in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. It turns out that it was Gordon and I who were sharing in her church last year as we had done a similar trip in 2012. It was a wonderful confirmation that God has us sharing here in Louisiana again this year.

On Friday Larry Keith is taking Gordon and I fishing. Larry and his wife Debbie were on a mission team that came to Cheticamp last year. We will be in a camp till Sunday and then we are preaching at a church in Hessmer with Brother Norris Landry. Norris was leading the mission team to Cheticamp last year. In the evening I will share my testimony back at the Washington church. On Monday we are going out to supper with the ladies from the Washington church. We will fly out on Tuesday morning and land in Sydney at 8:00 on Wednesday morning and will be looking forward to our home Bible Study in Cheticamp that evening.

I will close for now as it is almost time to get up and get ready to go to Morgan City.

Please pray that each step we take will be in the will of God and that we will be Spirit filled and Spirit led men of God.

[Further update on the next Page;](#)

This is a further update on the Louisiana trip as we have now returned home to Cape Breton. When I left off writing we were headed for Morgan City which is an hour and a half south of where we are staying. We had a great meeting there with Christian leaders encouraging participation in strengthening ties between Christians in the Maritimes and Louisiana. Gordon and I presented the work in Cape Breton. From there we went on to Catahoula and had a wonderful meeting in a little church building. This is a growing church with real excitement among the believers. Spoke from the text in Isaiah 45:22 Look to me and be saved all you ends of the earth.

The next day (Friday) we went north to stay with Larry Keith who has a camp on the red river system. He and his wife had been to Cheticamp on a mission trip last year. Larry took us out fishing for largemouth bass. We caught a couple of 2 pounders and a few perch about the same size and saw an 11 foot alligator. The next day Larry was away and I did not feel comfortable taking his powerboat out on waters we didn't know well so we borrowed a little aluminum boat and a paddle and went out on the water. That is probably where I hurt my back as I paddled a couple of miles. I felt fine at the time but by the next evening I could hardly walk. Larry and Debbie treated us like kings and fed us with a great crawfish boil and all kinds of food. A treat on Saturday night was to actually find the Toronto/Montreal game on Sat. evening. I (Pierre) personally liked the outcome. Gordon did not.

On Sunday morning Larry and Debbie took us to their church in Hessmer where Brother Norris Landry ministers. We attended an adult Sunday School class taught by Larry on 1 Timothy 1 and then in the service Gordon shared his testimony and I preached from John chapter 3 "Look and Live". This message is available on the sermons page. In the evening we were back at the Washington church where I shared my testimony for the evening service. This has been videotaped and when it is available it will be posted online.

On Monday we went out to dinner with a group of ladies that make blankets for giving away in poor sections where teams go to preach the gospel in Mexico and in parts of Tennessee and Virginia.

My back was really sore and I had laryngitis. We flew out on Tuesday at 1:30 and my back was feeling better but I thought I might have to actually get a wheelchair in the airport as sometimes you have to walk great distance to get the next flight. But my back actually improved and lo and behold in each airport we landed in we only had to walk a short distance to the next plane. Thanks to everyone who prayed as God looked after us every step.

We arrived in Sydney at 9: AM on Wed morning (Had to stay over in Halifax from 1:30 AM until 8: AM.)

Got home and slept for a few hours and had a wonderful Bible Study in Cheticamp that evening. My voice has returned enough to speak and my back is improving. Thanks again to everyone who prayed for us

In Christ Pierre and Gordon

See Pictures below

Pierre and Gordon at the mighty Mississippi in Baton Rouge



Gordon Singing at Nursing Home



Missions meeting in Baton Rouge



Flowers in Bloom



Men's Prayer Meeting

