



Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

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Dear Friend of Mary Craig Ministries,

Mission trips are assignments from the LORD. For me, they usually begin with a “Go to...” It is a commission, with commandments to obey regarding the mission. I personally wait until there is also what I call the “I will” statements from God.

The call to Lyon, France came back in February, 2013. At that time, what I believe I received from the LORD was this... *“The days coming are dark, but I am the Light and strength within you...Proclaim Me among the nations, for I am ever doing something new, something glorious, things worthy of My Name...I am the God of surprising joy...”*

In Lyon I was to proclaim Christ as Lord of the church and Head of the Church and to renounce in His Name every false way, every false doctrine, every false ritual, and every false tradition that has entered His Church from its inception. I was to proclaim Him the Way, the Truth, and the Life and to call His Church back to Him, to call His Church to repentance and to pray in His Name for revival.

Marcia Murray accompanied me on this mission, which was accomplished in September during the time of the Feast of Tabernacles. Part of this assignment was to *“go to Fourviere Hill and confess the blood of the martyrs, the blood shed in the persecution, the seed of the Church.”*

*And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb,
And by the word of their testimony; and
They loved not their lives unto the death. Revelation 12:11*

So those of us at Craighouse® began researching the earliest church martyrs. It seems that in all three parts of Gaul (France) in the second century the single organized Church was in Lyon.

Vienne, a village to the south of Lyon, was a Roman colony about 47 BC under Julius Caesar. This Gallic village became a major urban center, ideally located on the Rhone river, a major trade and communication route. The town became a Roman provincial capital. The Gauls managed to expel the Romans, so exiles founded the colony of Lugdunum, today's Lyon. Herod Archelaus was exiled there in 6 A.D.



According to legend, the provincial capital of Christian Vienne had as its first bishop Crescens, a disciple of Paul. Lugdunum was named for Lug, the god of the sun and light. Fourviere Hill was considered the hill of the good lug. Lyon has two hills. Fourviere Hill is “the hill that prays” and La Croix Rousse (the rosy Cross) is “the hill that works.” Fourviere Hill is considered the cradle of spiritual life.

(Marcy at Fourviere Hill)

The symbol of Lyon is a lion. It is called today the city of lights. The city is surprisingly beautiful, the gastronomical capital of France. It is there that the Rhone and Saone Rivers meet. It is known for its architecture, which spans 2000 years. The city is clean, vibrant, and full of young people going to universities there; friendly to visitors, and a cultural treasure from Roman amphitheaters to French Romanticism to modern art. It teems with ascetic treats and French cuisine, river boats and haute couture. The loom was invented in Lyon, and it has a fascinating history of its silk industry there. But for all this, the LORD sees things from His own perspective.

“I am coming to you, France. The blood of the martyrs of generations crying out, “How long, O Lord, how long?” To which I say, “The time is short.” Nevertheless, for all the sacrifices of all the blood of all the martyrs, there is only one sacrifice that saves. Behold, the Blood of My Son. His Blood I will honor.”

... “Mine are being persecuted. The Blood of the Martyrs, these who have borne Me witness unto the death, their Blood cries out before Me.”



Marcy and I went to Fourviere Hill. There she dispensed seeds of life, placing into the soil small cards with strategic scripture verses on them.

“For the blood of the martyrs runs deep in the soil of France. And early whoredoms and early errors, early perversions of truth smell to the highest heaven. A silence will I put to the voices of the martyrs, for I hear their cry and I am

coming soon. And I will cause the stench of their abominations, not of the martyrs, but the abominations rising, rising, rising out of France, to deceits, philosophies and vain deceits, and every high thing that exalts itself against all that is holy in the Name of Jesus Christ, until every thought is brought captive to the obedience of Jesus Christ. For even yet they compromise; they compromise. Let God be true and every man a liar.

“I am coming to you, France, and how shall I come, with a sword of justice in My hand or holding out the Scepter of Peace? You that have spurned My goodness, you that have spurned My Son, Jesus Christ, you that have mocked, you that have gone the way of another wisdom and another word; I am coming to you, France, and I will rectify, and we will see who sits as God and who does not, even those who say they are Mine and are not. You are neither hot nor cold, the stench of your abominations rises to the highest heaven, and I would vomit you out of My mouth.

“Know this, France, I AM the Sovereign God, and I move the boundaries of nations...though you’ve had a long history, I could wipe you off the face of the planet, and I could make a new nation. I have suffered long with you, France; oh, the pride of your intellect. Do you really want to war with the Living God in the area of intellect? We shall see...”

We declared out the book of Hosea. *“I will perform My Word and they will know that there is no other god but Me. Besides Me, there is no savior. Their money (economy) will not save them. Government will not save them. Their philosophers and worldly wise will not save them. Their staunch stand against Me will not rid their lives of My existence and My Lordship. Their pride will only be to their ruin.”* We proclaimed Jesus LORD. *For I will do all My good pleasure. I am Jehovah G’Molah, and I will recompense.”*



Why Lyon? The confluence of the Rhone and Saone Rivers, where 60 Gallic tribes had erected an altar to Rome and Augustus, was also the centre from which Christianity spread throughout the region. Irenaeus was sent there from Smyrna (modern Izmir, in Turkey) by Polycarp, a disciple of the apostle John. His name means “peaceable,” and he became the second bishop of Lyon following the martyrdom of the 92-year-old bishop Pothinus.

Irenaeus (c.115/125 – 202) was away when the great persecution of 177 AD took place in Lyon. We have the history thanks to the preservation by Eusebius of *The Letter of the Churches of Vienne and Lugdunum to the Churches of Asia and Phrygia*. In that document we find the surprising stories of the martyrs of Lyon, martyrs like Blandina, a young slave girl, who after scourging, after wild beasts, after “the roasting seat,” was finally enclosed in a net and given over to a raging bull. She faced death rejoicing as she found the God of surprising joy.

Our hotel was across the street from L'eglise de Blandina. Blandina is the patron saint of Catholic Lyon.



We visited the church and were surprised to hear a group of young men practicing contemporary worship songs with keyboard, bass, and drums. The worship filled this ancient church as we stood there listening and praying for revival.

Irenaeus wrote against the Gnostics. In his writings he refers to 21 of the 27 New Testament texts, all but 2 Peter (maybe), 3 John, Hebrews (maybe), Philemon, Jude and James (maybe). This became highly important in the establishment of the Canon of Scripture, or Rule of faith. He taught Christians to measure all teaching by the apostolic truths found in the Scriptures. He focused on unity and the goodness of God. Some of his

teachings, however, were seeds of controversial teachings, such as his view that Eve when disobeying became the cause of death for herself and the human race and that Mary by obeying became the cause of salvation for herself and the human race. I'll leave it to you to check it out.

*But you shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come
Upon you: and you shall be witnesses unto Me, both in
Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and
Unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:8*

Every believer is called to be a martyr, whether to the death or not. (Acts 1:8) A martyr is a witness, one who testifies, who professes, admits, confesses or denies something. It implies truth and the relationship of the speaker to such truth. We are witnesses to the truth, as was Jesus, who came to bear witness to the truth and who is the faithful and true witness. (John 18:37, Revelation 1:5) Our testimony has a content, and that content is what is important. Jesus faced false witnesses, but Jesus is the living testimony of God's truth sent to communicate His love upon His own on earth.

Early Christian martyrs saw Jesus as the archetypal martyr on account of His crucifixion. They also kept the resurrection in view, a belief that shocked inasmuch as pagan gods worshipped in the area included no deities that protected the dead. Those suffering martyrdom were said to have been crowned because the name Stephen (in the Book of Acts) means "crown."

The stereotypical martyr is a hero, a somewhat known person devoted to a cause, who encounters people opposing that cause. The risk is foreseeable due to commitment to the cause. In spite of this, the person continues out of his/her courage and commitment. Opponents kill the person because of their refusal to repent of their commitment. People respond by calling the

person a hero or martyr; these people become inspired to their own personal courage and commitment to the cause. Characteristics of a martyr: patient, perseverant, loyal, joyful in suffering, and bold in witness; willing to endure torture and suffer death; die for faith in Jesus Christ and not necessarily for a social cause, though a just cause.

The life of Christ and the Word of God prepares us to be faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ. There are many, many scriptures dealing with what to expect when encountering persecution. In Lyon, when the persecution began, the people were not immediately sent to the arena to face hungry lions and torture. At first, Christians were shut out of businesses and houses. They endured all kinds of shame and personal injuries. Mobs formed to beat, stone and rob the Christians. Then persecution included not only exclusion from certain areas and reproach, but also torture.

“And first they nobly endured the evils...bootings and blows, draggings, plunderings, stonings, and confinements, and everything that an infuriated mob is wont to perpetrate against those whom they deem bitter enemies. And at length, being brought to the forum by the tribune of the soldiers, and the magistrates that had charge of the city, they were examined in presence of the whole multitude; and having confessed, they were shut up in prison until the arrival of the governor... the proto-martyrs were decided and ready, and accomplished the confession of their testimony.” (The Letter of the Churches of Vienna and Lugdunum to the Churches of Asia and Phrygia)

These martyrs found the God of surprising joy. Many knew ahead of time through dreams and visions that they would be killed for their testimony and faith. They looked to the grace of God. They looked forward to the good things which God had prepared for them that love Him (1 Corinthians 2:9). They held within them the blessed hope. They endured, and so must we by His grace and with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

For His glory,

Mary Craig, D.P.M.

Mary Craig

Fear not...be faithful unto death,

And I will give you a crown of life.

Revelation 2:10, 11, to the church at Smyrna

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