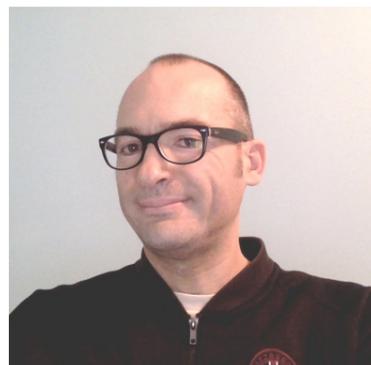




Olivier Barrucand

2006 - 2016,

Ten years of distance learning



In 2006 I felt the need to deepen my knowledge of Christianity and its world vision, so I enrolled in the Bachelors programme at the Faculté Jean Calvin as a distance student. Ten years later I completed my Masters.

In 2006 my children were 5 and 2^{1/2}. At that time the Faculté was called the Faculté Libre de Théologie Réformée. The library was in the safe hands of Aline Dielemann and plans were afoot to modernise the library facilities. At that time the on-line platform had not yet been set up but the custom-made CDs meant we could follow classes. We could photocopy the texts on the reading list and the Bible commentaries we needed to write our papers and that meant regular trips to Aix-en-Provence.

In 2016 my children are adolescents, only a few years younger than some of the on-site students just beginning their course. The FLTR is now the Faculté Jean Calvin. The library has been fully modernised and Marie Herrenschildt helps us locate the books recommended by the professors. Everything, from the classes to the reading matter, can now be taken away on a memory stick. Pierre Berthoud, Paul Wells and Ron Bergey have retired and new professors have replaced them.

What led me to enrol at the Faculté was that the Word of God is taught faithfully and applied to every area of life. The conclusion I draw from atten-

« ... What led me to enrol at the Faculté was that the Word of God is taught faithfully and applied to every area of life. The conclusion I draw from attending classes, seminars ... »

ding classes, seminars and the annual spring conference at the Faculté over the last 10 years is that its focus has not changed.

For anyone who likes reading, studying, thinking and writing, anyone who is willing to dedicate their free time to study for a number of years, anyone wanting to learn more about theology, whose family is willing to back them up in a long-haul project, with all that requires in terms of patience, absences, investments, for anyone who desires to prepare themselves to become more useful in the church, with the help of the Spirit and prayer, I can testify that in Aix there is a team of people willing to welcome them and go through the adventure with them.

Olivier Barrucand



Rodrigo De Sousa

My first semester of activities



In this account, I would like to offer a report some of my experiences since my arrival at the Faculté Jean Calvin.

The process of transitioning between different cultures and countries naturally has many challenges, particularly when we have children.

My wife, Ana, has had to go through many adjustments in our move. As a graduate in Portuguese Language and Literature with postgraduate degrees in Theology and Religious Studies she was



very active in Brazil, especially with writing and teaching (Portuguese at a school and seminars on Spirituality in various churches). The move to Aix has been a serious change of pace for her. We are

happy to report that in spite of the difficulties, she is doing well. She is currently spending much time studying French, which she did not know before our arrival. She has also had the opportunity to offer voluntarily some private lessons in Portuguese and is still actively writing in her personal blog in Portuguese, as well as producing literary texts. She is advancing in her French and has had many opportunities to develop new friendships here.

The good adaptation of our children (Gabriel, aged 11, and Nicole, aged 08) has naturally been a cause of concern for us. We are happy to report that their adaptation could not have been better. We believe that this is the result of the Lord's blessing operating primarily through the wonderful Christian school they are enrolled in (La Nouvelle Alliance) and the local Church (Église Réformée Évangélique d'Aix-en-Provence at the Rue de La Masse). They have advanced quickly in their knowledge of French and are quickly settling well in school life. We have also made good friends in

the neighborhood where we live.

For me, the biggest transition has been the adjustment to a different system of school administration, teaching, grading, etc. There are many differences in the work dynamics between my previous work setting – a university of 38,000 students (300 in the Theology faculty) and 1,400 professors (27 in the Theology faculty) located in the largest city of the Southern Hemisphere (3rd largest city of the world) – and my new setting in Aix-en-Provence.

I do believe that, in terms of my work, the change has been very positive, enabling me to know better each student individually, and to dedicate more fully to class preparation, research and writing that is directly connected to my main area of teaching. I also perceive a greater need in this new setting, as we are aware of the many challenges that the church in Europe and other parts of the world represented by the student body faces today. I am very thankful to be able to offer my contribution.

Another positive aspect has been the reception I have received from all the staff and governing bodies of the FJC as well as from my fellow professors. Even though I am new in this school and still have much to learn and adjust, each of my colleagues makes me feel that I am an integral part of the group. I often have the feeling that I have been working here for many years because of the way my colleagues have integrated me.

I am also having the opportunity to develop some bonds beyond the Faculty, both in the ecclesiastical and academic context. I have already been invited to participate in a master's defense at the Faculté Libre de Théologie Évangélique de Vaux-sur-Seine and have established contact with other academics and church leaders in France.

I would like to thank all the friends of the FJC who continually support this ministry and who enable me to participate in it. May the Lord continue to bless you as we partner in the work of his Kingdom.

Public lecture

By Franck Lestringent

at the Faculté Jean Calvin in association with the Jean Calvin Bookstore



9th May 2017 at 8.15 p.m.

« Was the New World a refuge for Protestants in the 16th Century ? »

Protestant Forum (Fête du Protestantisme) 27th to 29th November 2017 in Strasbourg- The Faculté will have a stall.

Our premises are put to good use

At the Faculté Jean Calvin we are pleased to see that our premises are used more and more by churches and Christian groups.

Several churches (Reformed Evangelical Church, Korean Church, American Church) meet here regularly for services or other meetings. Open Doors and the National Council of French Evangelicals (CNEF) use our classrooms for training purposes, as does FORMAPRE, an association providing decentralised training for church leaders.



Faculté choir concerts in May :

Lyon, at the Temple du Change, on 12th May at 8.30 p.m.

On Saturday 13th May the students will take part in the Inter-Church Fellowship Day

On Sunday 14th they will be taking part in services in various churches.

A living Faculté

Nîmes, at the Nîmes Baptist Church (1249, Chemin Combe des Oiseaux) at 6.00 p.m.



Theological Conference (3rd & 4th March)

The subject this year was « Faith and Works » to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. About a hundred people attended.



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fic FACULTÉ JEAN CALVIN

March 2017

The Dean's Visit



On 25th October 2016 a ceremony celebrated cooperation between Hapdong Theological Seminary in Suwon (B. Cho, President) and the Faculté Jean Calvin (M. Johner, Dean), for the exchange of students and professors and collaboration in academic research.

Our trip to South Korea was full of surprises and discoveries.

Seoul is a city of 26 million people who travel on French high-speed trains and where ancient imperial palaces stand shoulder to shoulder with the towering sky-scrapers of Samsung and Hyundai.

It was a novel experience for a Frenchman to give classes in Theology to 700 students in huge amphitheatres or to be in a context where there are so many Protestants : out of 50 million people in Korea, 15 million are Protestants. Most of them are Presbyterians, though there are 182 smaller denominations ranging from liberal to orthodox in theology.

We visited two medium-sized denominations : First, the Hapshin churches (70 churches) and their seminary, Hapdong Theological Seminary (HTS) at Suwon (500 students and 15 professors). This seminary is trying to establish a more conservative stance in a liberal-leaning denomination.

We also visited the Koshin church (2,000 churches) and their seminar, the Korean Theological Seminary (KTS) in Cheonan (450 students and 15 professors) where I was asked to give two lectures on Calvin.

Like the Huguenot churches in France in the 16th and 17th centuries, the Koshin churches suffered persecution under the Japanese occupation (1910-1945) and had to go underground because they refused to worship the emperor as a god. Today the Koshin churches have a missions board (Korean Presbyterian Mission) that has sent 252 missionaries out into the world, particularly to French-speaking countries in Africa.

The greatest discovery was that Korean Protestants have a very keen interest in John Calvin. His theology is seen to have the best apologetic approach to enable them to come to grips with the traditional culture which is a mixture of Buddhism, Shamanism and Shintoism..

Michel Johner

