

PRAYING

FROM PAMPLIN

Mission Focus: *Gatineau, Canada*
Our prayer focus this week takes us across our northern border, to Canada. Two of our missionaries have planted a new church to reach the city of Gatineau, which sits just across the river from Ottawa, Canada's capital city. French is the main language spoken in Gatineau. That's why our two missionaries are well-suited to serve there.

Josias Laporte is a native of Canada who has lived in Ottawa and Montréal. His wife, **Débora**, is French and has lived in Canada for 10 years. Josias studied nuclear medicine and theology; Débora studied education. They have four children. They launched their French-speaking church, La Chapelle Gatineau, in October 2021. So far, they meet in a movie theater in a busy shopping area just off Highway 148.

All of Canada is a huge mission field, with relatively few evangelical Christians. Gatineau, population around 300,000, is like that: Many new churches are needed here too. Josias and Débora have led their new church to get into the community and help people. For example, church members painted a nearby shelter for women. That led to many contacts and openings to talk about Jesus.

Let's pray for them and ask God to grow their church so thousands of people in their city will come to know Christ.

Church of the Week
Calvary Baptist Church
Concord, VA

Shut-in of the Month
Irvin Crump
2997 Old Evergreen Rd, Appomattox, VA, 24522

Prayer Concerns from Congregation

Government Leaders

- For guidance for the president as he meets with world leaders in Poland this week.
- For President Jimmy Carter and his family as our former president is on hospice care.
- For God to direct the Governor and Commonwealth legislators in the final days of their sessions.

Church Leadership
Barry Letterman, Deacon on Finance Committee and Safety Committee Chair.

February 19, 2023

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Acts 21:17-22:22

Pastor Dave Sexton

Big Idea: *A genuine Christian must be prepared to be misunderstood and be wary of joining a mob.*

Paul was misunderstood in three ways:

- His fellow believers thought he was dishonoring his heritage (21:17-36)
- His countryman thought he was desecrating their homeland (21:27-36)
- The arresting officers confused him with a political revolutionary (21:37-39)

The mob mentality:

- Formed by fearful and angry people acting on misinformation (27-30)
- Stirred to unthinking violence (21:30-32)

More than a simple misunderstanding:

- The people's national pride and bigotry stopped them from accepting God's will and God's message (22:1-22)

Gospel Message:

- Jesus was misunderstood and willingly suffered under the violence of a mob so that the very people who rejected Him might have a path to redemption.
- Paul was once one of the mob, now he was joining in the suffering of His Savior.
- Jesus will reign over all the earth - we can boldly live following our King.

Application:

- Are you willing to be misunderstood by those around you for the sake of following Christ?
- Are you willing to examine your heart and repent of fear, bigotry, pride, or anything else that will keep you from hearing the message of God?
- You can live in confidence because Jesus is King - He is our mighty fortress.

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