

Lecture 1: The Beginnings of L'Abri (I)

Our heavenly Father we pray that You'll be with us in this class time. We ask that we may learn and be challenged in our own lives as we think about the life of one of Your servants. Help us as we seek to get a foundation for thinking about the later years of his ministry, to be clear in understanding as we cover a lot of ground very rapidly. Father be with us we pray, and teach us in Jesus' name, Amen.

Introduction and Review: In the course *Francis Schaeffer: The Early Years*, Professor Barrs covered Dr. Schaeffer's visit to Europe in the summer of 1947. Now he continues with the Schaeffer's return to the United States and the events surrounding their decision to "strengthen the things that remain" by going back to Switzerland.

The Beginnings of L'Abri (I)

- I. Early Years in Switzerland - Lausanne
 - A. Children's work and teaching
 - B. International Council of Christian Churches
 - C. Articles and individual ministry
 - D. New church
- II. Two Important Events
 - A. Dr. Schaeffer's spiritual crisis - late 1940's
 - 1. The Separatist Movement
 - 2. Schaeffer's personal questions
 - a. Have I had adequate teaching?
 - b. Is Christianity really true?
 - 3. The conclusion - a transformed vision
 - 4. Foundation for L'Abri work
 - a. Answering questions
 - b. Compassion for unbelievers
 - c. Sympathy for believers with struggles
 - d. Urgency of prayer
 - B. Ejection from Switzerland
 - 1. A religious influence in the village
 - 2. A dramatic answer to prayer - the move to Vaud
- III. The Schaeffer's Philosophy of Ministry (page 334, *With Love, Edith*)
 - A. A ministry based on prayer
 - 1. Remember the "small things"
 - 2. The Praying Family
 - B. A dedication to demonstrating transformed lives
 - 1. Supernaturally restored relationships
 - 2. Hospitality