# Michel and Ruth Poirier

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Michel and Ruth Poirier serve in Vallée-Jonction, Quebec, and minister in Lévis, a city with 140,000 people and only two Baptist churches. Their ministry extends beyond Quebec's borders due to the large number of immigrants in the region, including Africans, Haitians, Brazilians, and Chileans who have come to work and settle in Canada.

### **Ministry Approach**

- Their ministry is international in scope, reaching people from diverse backgrounds who have settled in Lévis.
- The focus is on sharing the gospel, leading people to salvation, baptism, and training them to share their faith with others.
- The church welcomes many immigrants, presenting unique opportunities and challenges in ministry.



## **Ministry Goals**

- Evangelism Leading people to faith in Christ.
- Baptism and Discipleship Teaching believers to grow in their faith and train others to do the same.

#### The People They Serve

- The majority of the local population is Roman Catholic, and Baptists are often seen as outsiders
  or even enemies of their faith.
- Many African immigrants who attend the church come from Pentecostal backgrounds and believe in losing salvation or salvation through faith plus baptism.

#### **Challenges in Ministry**

- Religious Opposition The Catholic majority often views Baptists as opponents to their traditional beliefs.
- Motive for Church Attendance Some immigrants attend services not for spiritual growth, but to seek letters of recommendation from the church to help with government approvals for immigration status.

### **Spiritual Landscape**

- Only 3 BMA churches exist in all of Canada.
- Quebec has about 25 independent Baptist churches serving a population of 8 million people.
- Lévis has only 2 Baptist churches for a city of 140,000 residents.