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GLOBE-TROTTING With GINNY

French Take Drastic  
Measures Against Bars

By Virginia Harris Hendricks

PARIS, France (BP)--The French government last year ordered a drastic though gradual reduction in the number of bars and taverns in its fight against alcoholism.

The French cabinet adopted a series of measures designed to combat a rising curve of deaths and mental illness attributed to excessive wine-drinking in France.

The main effect of the cabinet's orders will be to stop the growth of drink-selling establishments. In 1960 there was one bar to every 180 inhabitants!

No new bars or other enterprises selling alcoholic beverages will be permitted to open within 100 yards of schools, churches, hospitals, sport grounds, rest homes for the aged and industrial and business concerns employing more than 1000 persons each.

In these same zones, owners of established bars will not be allowed to sell out to another operator. Instead the government will buy them and turn them into social centers. To finance these purchases, a new tax was imposed on all retailers of alcoholic drinks.

In a nation where children begin early to drink watered-down wine with meals, the government is trying to educate the people to the advantages of milk as a beverage.

Television, health displays at country fairs and school text books are having a difficult time putting across this program. The wine-loving French have laughed the leaders of such ideas to scorn, even resorting to road blocks and strikes in southern France where wine-producing is a main industry.

The French government has recognized the evil destruction alcohol exerts within nation. They are at least attempting to curb its growth.

Surveys reveal the growing number of Americans who are alcoholics. What are we doing about the alcoholic beverage powers who will inevitably destroy that which Christianity stands for?