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22 novembre 2016 à 10:10

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À : Arlin & Pamela <hendrixap@gmail.com>

HAPPY THANKSGIVING !

New address: 15 B chemin Sapinière, 69330 Meyzieu, FRANCE.

Same town, same phone, same email address.

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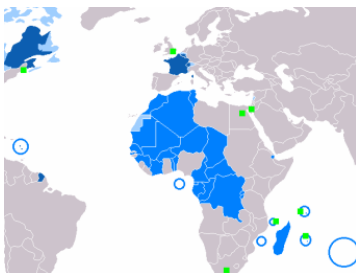
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LYON

With a lot of help from “our adopted daughter” **Kaitlin PLACHY**, Pamela & I have prepared 60 binders with 34 new songs to be used in worship. Many of them were translated into French by **Prisca DAUNER** from Marseille, who with her husband **Max** used to be our coworkers here in Lyon. We praise God for the committed young adults in our Lyon church.



A global outreach to the French-speaking world



In Lyon, choruses from St. Petersburg & Marseille



The Lyon Church of Christ recently hosted a **double concert**, using a Catholic church for free because they had more space. Two chorales from the Marseille Church of Christ and the Saint Petersburg (Russia) Church of Christ presented an excellent 2-hour performance. A number of visitors attended, including neighbors in the apartment building where our church meets. It was a highlight of our year!



The Lyon church threw a **surprise party** to celebrate my 70th birthday. I was completely caught off guard since I don't turn 70 until September 2017! They honored me with Caribbean dishes that I like so well, and they even gave me (us) a money gift to purchase a tree for our new home. God bless them every one!



*You can click on pictures to
make them bigger!*

Prayers

What are you most grateful for? Today this is what comes to mind for us:

- Our family
- Our Lyon church family who cares for us so beautifully
- And beyond, our church family & friends scattered all over the world
- Our good health
- Our new home
- Our firm assurance of our heavenly home
- The gift of forgiveness from God & from our fellow man

Pamela & I want to say **MERCI** to all of you who support us financially and prayerfully. We couldn't carry out our mission without your help.

"Every experience God gives us, every person we meet is the perfect preparation for a future only He can see." -- Corrie ten



It's official. Lyon is great. Already awarded as **1 of the 20 most attractive cities** in the world (2015 IBM Global Location Trends study), Lyon has also been recognized by the 2016 PwC Cities of Opportunity study as the most attractive one in France. We certainly love living here!

In case you want to see a video of Lyon from the air:

<http://www.en.lyon-france.com/Lyon-in-the-air>

BEYOND LYON

Recently I've had the honor to be part of **2 weddings**. I performed a wedding ceremony 15 years ago that evidently impressed the groom's brother because now the brother wanted me to do his wedding. I pray the ceremony will help bring this couple and all those who attended to a better understanding of God and what he expects.

The second wedding I took part in was for **Axel & Maylis ARNELL**. We have known them for years – and Axel since childhood. In 2015 they & two other couples had asked Pamela & me to present a special marriage seminar just for them in Marseille.

Pamela & I are committed to doing everything we can to help **preserve marriages**. In France almost half of them end in divorce (INSEE, 2015), whereas it's about one-third in the United States according to the



New house starting to look like home



From our living room window



Saved 3 hedgehogs from destruction



National Center for Health Statistics. Here 73% of adults are officially married, 69% in the U.S. (same sources). Pamela read in a French ladies' magazine (*Prima*): "After all, what's most important? The happiness and well being of the other person count at least as much as one's own needs." Hmmm, haven't we read that somewhere else?

FAMILY

These last few months have been challenging for several reasons. First I broke **4 ribs** in Guadeloupe last March. I recently had a scan because of continuing discomfort, but apparently that's normal considering the gravity of the breaks (not just cracks).

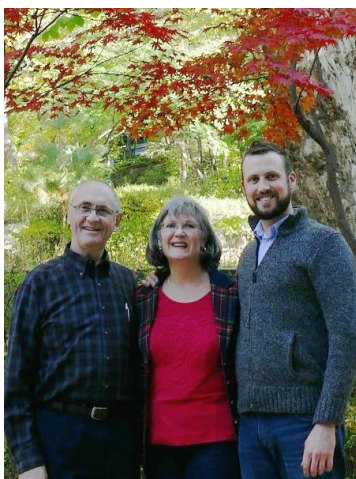
Other than that, Pamela & I are both enjoying excellent health. What a blessing with our move in August! With the help of a landscaper friend, we exchanged **12 truckloads** of bad dirt (backfill) at our new house with good dirt from our old vegetable garden & flowerbeds. Thirty-six years of improvement made for some mighty fine soil that we didn't want to lose. We then moved about **300 plants** from our old yard. A Herculean task! Now our new place is looking and feeling like home.

We also had the mission of saving some of the **hedgehogs** from our old home place. We were able to capture 3 and release them in the 30-acres woods behind our new house, where nature has retained its rights. Otherwise they would have perished when everything will be destroyed in February to make way for apartment buildings.

You can imagine that we were really tired after all that moving! It was a good time to go visit our son **Nathan**, who's been living in South Korea for 10 years. Hard to believe it had been 7 years since our last visit! We were able to use frequent flyer points for our plane tickets and bankcard points for free lodging. Pamela celebrated a most memorable birthday in Seoul.



With Nathan in Korea (South!)



FRIENDS

The first overnight guests in our new house were **6 Russians** traveling with the Neva Chorus from St. Petersburg. The language obstacle was a bit challenging, and yet we had sweet fellowship because of our bond in Christ.

Claude & Marie-Chantal ARNELL spent a night with us on their way to Marseille for their son Axel's wedding. We had such a blessed time that they stopped again for a couple of days on their way home to Paris. Pamela & I feel especially close to them because they are Guadeloupian and we have so many friends in common.

Nathan is fluent in Korean, so he rented a car and served as tour guide around the countryside. We enjoyed seeing the agriculture & historical sites, and the fall foliage was really spectacular.

While in Korea, we received news that Pamela's brother, **David WHITESELL**, was killed in a tractor accident. († 1958-2016) It was a shock to the whole family of course, but we're thankful he died instantly. Would you please pray for David's widow Donna and the rest of the family?



2012 - Pamela with brothers Wayne & David, V.M. & Lois

Arlin & David (Wayne & Pamela in mirror), 2014



Here is an example of love & persistence. **Michel & Rose RAVAUX** (members of our congregation who moved 3 hours away) were in our area and wanted to drop by. The problem was they didn't have our new address, nor did they have a cell phone. They spent 2 hours searching and eventually found us after roaming our neighborhood on foot. We were thrilled to see them.



Whitesell family portrait in 1972

Psalm 27 - "Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart and wait for the Lord."

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This year Pamela & I have also been concerned about challenges facing our own children. **Jana** has been suffering from a paralyzed vocal chord, making it difficult to talk and swallow. She just had an implant inserted into that vocal chord, and is waiting to see if she'll be able to talk normally again. **Karen** suffered a fall from high up on a ladder, injuring her neck, arm, shoulder and leg. **Daniel** is seeking relocation to North Carolina. It's hard living so far from all of them. We'd appreciate your prayers for them as well.

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