

Hendrix Feb. 2015

1 message

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10 février 2015 08:05

Praise God, our Lyon church family just grew! Also our take on the terrorist attacks in France.

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HENDRIX NEWSLETTER - Lyon, France
Volume 43, Issue 1, February 2015
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LYON

Paméla had visited 7 churches in Lyon, and she knew she had found her place the very first time she met us. We've never met anyone like Paméla. She has taken a year off work (as a medical/psychological aide) to devote herself fully to God, to imitate Christ, and to prepare herself for baptism. What a joyful occasion when she was baptized! She & her daughter Camélia are a blessed addition to our church family.

Nathalie, who introduced Paméla to our church, had





Baptism in Lyon





A global outreach touching all parts of the Frenchspeaking world

PARIS TERRORIST

been baptized in the International Church of Christ. Since Nathalie had not been attending church anywhere, we had some good discussions and she decided to place membership with us.

How are they to call on one they have not believed in? And how are they to believe in one they have not heard of?

And how are they to hear without someone preaching to them? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?

Consequently faith comes from what is heard, which comes through the preached word of Christ. (Romans 10)

At church we occasionally show a movie with a message and invite friends to join us. However, it gets expensive paying royalties when we show **movies** to the public. Therefore Pamela & I have decided to periodically invite families with children to watch a good movie in our home. Please let us know what some of your favorites are.

One of the things Pamela & I like about French culture is that people take time for each other. Two hours around the table are a minimum when you have company, and it's not unusual for **meal conversation** to last 3-4 hours. We recently invited a family over for Sunday dinner and, since they had young children, we guessed they might stay 4 hours. Well, we had such good discussions that they stayed until 7 P.M.!

HELP PLEASE

We want to repeat the request made in our last 2 newsletters. Almost every Sunday we are crowded in at church, thus a "pressing need" to find another meeting place. Do you have any **brainstorming**

ATTACK

Last month terrorists attacked the Paris satirical newspaper *Charlie Hébdo* because of its mockery of Mohammed, and 12 people were killed. In response, an unprecedented **4,000,000 French** marched in the streets to show solidarity, using the slogan "We are Charlie". In Lyon, 300,000 people participated in the silent march.

A few days later, Charlie Hébdo again poked fun at the Muslims. The editor made it clear that the paper is atheist, and its sales have skyrocketed. The third highest politician in France declared the national "right to mock any religion, because we are the birth-place of Voltaire and irreverence".

No, we are NOT Charlie. Freedom of speech is important, but **respect** is of far greater importance. It saddens us that the French seem to have forgotten that. When has it been morally right to mock someone? Jesus calls us to **pray** for our enemies. Please join us in praying, not only for our enemies, but also for the French people.



Winter morning fog clearing over Lyon

ideas?

Also please join us in **prayer**. From a human standpoint, we cannot afford the market price of a facility that would meet our needs. If it is God's will we get a bigger place, HE will have to make a way!

BEYOND LYON

A natural outgrowth of our marriage seminar is **helping couples** on down the line. We recently made another trip specifically for that purpose.

Thirty-three **church leaders** from all over Frenchspeaking Europe spent a weekend together. I was in charge of enrollment and housing at the retreat center 2 hours from Lyon. We had some very good discussions and ideas for the future.

For the first time in several years Pamela & I were home alone at Christmas, so we revived an old family tradition of spending it with **Doyle & Barbara KEE** in Geneva. It was great to be with them & some of their children, along with a couple of other good friends. Also our Lyon friends spoiled us throughout the holiday season. We are certainly blessed.



Lyon all lit up, 2014 Light Festival



Boof & Alice from Australia



Pérouges, medieval walled city near Lyon

FRIENDS

Boof & Alice HORNE, our Australian friends, came for Lyon's Light Festival that draws large crowds (800,000 in 2014). We had "adopted" Boof years ago when he was a student near Lyon, and it was wonderful finally getting to meet his lovely bride!

Alex, co-renter with our son Nathan in Seoul, came to visit us along with 2 high school boys named Lee & Minki. I showed them around and Pamela provided nice French meals to introduce them to another culture. The 3 of them made a delicious Korean meal for us, and so the cultural exchange was complete. We were also able to host Benoît, one of Nathan's old high school buddies who also knew Alex.





Pérouges had 1500 inhabitants in the Middle Ages

Prayers

- For Paméla & Nathalie, the new additions to our church family
- Thanksgiving for the Lyon Church of Christ outgrowing its current facilities
- Supplications for God to help us find a new meeting place
- That we will all seek opportunities to share the Good News
- That Alex, Lee & Minki will come to know God
- For Muslims and others who don't know Jesus Christ
- That the French nation will turn to God

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