

HENDRIX NEWSLETTER—LYON, France

A Global Outreach Touching All Parts of the French-Speaking World

Volume 41, Issue 3 — March 2013

Arlin & Pamela HENDRIX

9, rue Paul Gauguin
69330 Meyzieu, FRANCE
Telephone: (33) 478 04 13 06
E-mail: hendrixap@aol.com

SPONSOR INFORMATION

Poplar-Warner Church of Christ
Attention: Larry Byte
320 North Poplar
Guthrie, OK 73044
Telephone: (405) 282-6780
E-mail: mbyte@web-host.net



OUR WEB SITE

For more information and *PHOTOS* go to:
www.hendrixfrancophone.com



SPECIAL EDITION—GUADELOUPE

CLIMATE

We just got back from a month-long mission to Guadeloupe, and it was great to go in winter when Lyon is gray & cold. The sun & 85 degree heat (F) felt wonderful. Mosquitoes are the only downside (Pamela got 60 bites the first week), but at least there is no malaria. We keep the same schedule as the locals, getting up every morning at 6:00 and going to bed about 9:30. Morning is the best time to visit people because most everyone takes an afternoon nap. The slower pace is refreshing.



Tropical island of Guadeloupe



Gifts from the garden

COUNTRY LIVING (that doesn't look like the magazine)

This year we stayed with a family who lives off the land. One of their sows had 7 babies, and we tried to save the runt by bottle feeding him for a day. They butchered a bull the first weekend, a pig the last weekend, with 2 turkeys and 30-plus chickens between. (Their goats got finished off right before our arrival.) For me, all that was reminiscent of my farm days as a boy. In Guadeloupe we also eat a lot of fish & seafood, but more with other families who have fisherman relatives.

HOSPITALITY

It seems that everyone there tries to spoil us. Some even drew up a schedule of meals so we could taste every Caribbean specialty they could think of. (Pamela said she thought the beans with pig tails were actually quite tasty.) Each member generally invites us over for a meal or two, plus there were 3 potlucks, plus people kept giving us fresh tropical fruits from their gardens: bananas, mangos, coconuts, passion fruit, guavas & papayas. Good thing we walked for 40-60 minutes most mornings.

GEOGRAPHY & POPULATION

Guadeloupe is part of France (like Hawaii is part of the U.S.), but it is located in the West Indies 4400 miles from Paris. It takes 2 hours to drive from one end of the island to the other. It is mostly rural, with a population of 400,000. Eighty percent are descendants of African slaves, and thirteen percent of Hindu descent. (45,000 came from India to work the fields once slavery was abolished in 1848).

HISTORY

Max & Monique Lanoix were baptized in Lyon in 1981, and their job led them to this part of France in 1984. They naturally started sharing their faith, which was the beginning of the Church of Christ on the island. Max died in 1999, and the local church has never had a full-time preacher. 1986 was my first mission trip, and this year marked my 20th visit.



ST. FRANCOIS CHURCH OF CHRIST

The teaching at church is done by 2 men in their 30's who also hold down full-time jobs, and they are grateful that I come help bear their load. Each time I teach a series designed to reach out to people seeking a relationship with God, and that special event prompts the Christians to invite their friends & family. Pamela also teaches of course. And we both concentrate on edifying and counseling the members, who confide in us more than the young local teachers.

EAU BLANCHE

There is a second Church of Christ on the island, and sadly there has not been unity between the two for a number of years. Pamela & I contacted the preacher at Eau Blanche, and we had a nice visit with him & his wife. We pray that our overture will be the beginning of healing. As Jesus prayed in John 17, May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that God sent Jesus.

Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits – He who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion. (Psalm 103)

EVANGELISM

It is encouraging to teach in a place where people are more open to God. Their religion is often a mix of Catholicism, Hinduism & animism. This year I taught a 12-part study of the Gospel of Mark, and Pamela taught the women twice. We had 14 visitors, 2/3 the number of adult church members. Imagine what it would look like at your church if 66 percent brought a friend!



FELLOWSHIP

One day was a holiday (the end of Carnival), and Pamela organized an outing for the church. We spent the day fellowshiping in beautifully landscaped gardens located next to a tropical mountain stream. Some of us played in the water, others fed fish in a pond, and others did some kayaking. Needless to say, all of us shared a wonderful potluck meal of island specialties, under a tree canopy perfect for relaxing.

THANK YOU

Our time in Guadeloupe was a blessing: our stay was restful and rewarding, and we had fun teaching and encouraging and mentoring. A big MERCI to all of you who made this mission trip possible, and may God bless you!



Teaching at church



Our gracious hosts in Guadeloupe

GOD IS GOOD—PAMELA

It is a joy when we can see God's hand in our lives, isn't it? The wife of our host family works for the best dentist in Guadeloupe, and he took time to carefully examine Pamela's teeth & scans with respect to her sinus infection. He said that one tooth looks suspicious but it requires further x-rays & tests. Would you believe that this dentist's brother is a dentist & professor at the Lyon Medical School, and his specialty is difficult dental-care cases?! So Pamela has an appointment with him April 4.

PLEASE PRAY:

- Praise for the variety & bounty of God's nature
- Thanksgiving for warm hospitality in God's family
- That God's kingdom will continue to grow on the island of Guadeloupe
- That the Christians at Eau Blanche will open their hearts to reconciliation with the St. François church
- Blessings on all of you who support our mission efforts, either financially and/or prayerfully
- For healing for Pamela (yet trusting God knows what's best for us & his kingdom)