Hendrix Newsletter April 2020

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We hope you had a memorable Easter celebrating Jesus' resurrection! And we pray you are safe, with our Savior sustaining you step by step. Forward this email to a friend Click here to subscribe to our newsletter.



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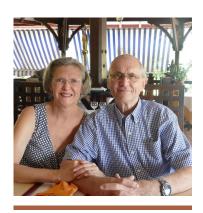
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Arlin & Pamela Hendrix 15 B chemin Sapinière 69330 Meyzieu **FRANCE** Tel. (33) 478 04 13 06













Christ is risen!





Outreach to the Frenchspeaking world

WESTINDIES

We thank God that our mission this year was a month earlier than usual, and so we were able to teach and call on people as usual. We are thankful also to those of you who were so generous to help financially for the trip. Who would think that the cost of living is high in **Guadeloupe**? Food for example is 33% more expensive than in France.

(<u>60 Millions de Consommateurs</u> magazine, 11/19)

The churches of Christ in Guadeloupe have never had a full-time worker: thus our regular trips to assist them as we can. In 1981, Max & Monique Lanoix converted in Lyon. They moved to the island in 1984, and immediately started sharing their faith. Max died in 1999, and since then "our grandchildren" spiritual have been carrying on the work while holding down regular jobs.

The goal of this our 25th

LYON

Pamela & I are grateful to have gotten out of Guadeloupe at the start of strict confinement on March 17. Here's a video showing **Lyon the ghost town** on March 20:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ynBomZnoaM



We have **stayed at home** since our return, other than Pamela's weekly run to the store. In France to leave the house you have to carry an affidavit for going to work, getting medical care, assisting family members, or taking a walk within 1/2 mile of home.

The French president has announced that we will remain in total lockdown until at least **May 11**, which will make 8 weeks.

- Elementary & secondary schools are scheduled to start back "progressively" on May 11.
- Restaurants, movie theaters, museums, hotels & most retail stores won't open until sometime later.
- All public events are canceled until mid July.
- France's borders will remain closed indefinitely.

Deuteronomy 31:8 - "The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you. He will never leave you or forsake you. Do not be afraid. Do not be discouraged."

Do not be discouraged. That's this woolds howard

mission trip was to encourage and edify the Christians and reach out to non-believers. Pamela & I individually spent time with many of the church members, and we especially used these times to pray together.



I taught two series: "The Fire of Holiness" and "Iron Sharpens Iron" (Proverbs 27:17). The first was a study of what is holy and sacred to God, with special emphasis on church unity. In the second study we looked at how we all need each other in serving the Lord.

Pamela taught several classes, and she is always impressed by the sisters' dedication: attendance by 93 percent of the women in one of the churches!



Our last Sunday in Guadeloupe, there was a ban on public meetings because of the pandemic. So we worshiped outside with our host family in keeping our distance. That was certainly anticlimactic to our normal warm fellowship.

since we are facing at least 4 more weeks of strict confinement. Ten times in the Bible we read "Do not be afraid" coupled with "Do not be discouraged". The Lord himself goes before us!



You wouldn't think this a city of over 2 million

Pamela & I have been **staying busy** with gardening, cooking, spring-cleaning, phoning & encouraging others. How blessed we are to live in a house with a yard & garden!

It's surreal how **serene** we have been during this crisis. I mean, what's the worst that could happen to us – die and go to heaven?!

Even so, we are being very careful so as **to protect others** as well as ourselves. As of April 15, in France 15 percent of confirmed COVID-19 cases have been fatal. On April 8 the World Health Organization stated that in Europe 95 percent of deaths were persons aged 60 years and older. Most victims had other health issues such as obesity, heart problems, diabetes, etc.





After our return to France, one person wrote: "Thank you for putting aside your personal affairs to come and encourage us in Guadeloupe as you do each year you come."



Creole cabin with cattle staked nearby



Cemetery in Guadeloupe



The bananaquit is called "sugar bird" in Creole





Everyone in the Lyon church is fine. We call each other. We text. We trade emails. We do meetings on Skype. We've had to adapt our worship service, classes & prayer meeting to the Internet, and we are fortunate to have a number of committed young adults who have taken those projects in stride. Another blessing has been to also "attend" class & worship in Marseille on Sundays. To quote Philippe DAUNER: "We stay full of hope that God rules all circumstances and will allow the church to show his love and mercy in ways no one could have imagined."



Pamela setting up for confinement worship

Here's a striking illustration of how we can all **find a purpose** in the current COVID-19 situation (from the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute):





Pamela discovered a new way of playing checkers

CUISINE by PAMELA

In case confinement gives you more time to don your chef's hat and you'd like a PDF of **Pamela's spring recipes**, she can email it to you. To give just one example, Brittany Ham & Cheese Crepes are quick and easy!

Prayers

- For the Christians in Guadeloupe
- That each of us may recognize our place of service in the church, even with social distancing
- That we rely on God to furnish results in due time
- Thanksgiving for Lyon's young adult Christians
- For all those who are afraid in these tough times
- That this crisis will change people's hearts and bring them closer to God
- That we all learn to trust in God

We pray a lot for our family, for Christians throughout the world, for those who do not know God, and that this crisis will change people's hearts and bring them **closer to God**. Where else can we turn?

"The Lord is my light and my salvation — whom [what] shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life — of whom [of what] shall I be



Pamela & I asked the young adults of our congregation: What **opportunities** are given us particularly during this crisis? What can we do to serve others and give God the glory? Here's what they came up with:

- Pray
- Demonstrate the peace we feel to our non-Christian friends
- Check in with our non-Christian friends
- Share Bible verses with friends
- Praise God's creation, especially on social networks
- Volunteer as a church or individually
- Continue praising God in all circumstances and show that we are doing so
- Be exemplary in following government regulations
- Use this time God is giving us to encourage our brothers & sisters whose faith is weaker right now
- Call our church members, especially our seniors And Pamela thought of 3 other possibilities:
- Share Christian videos
- Share prayer requests on our church's group on WhatsApp
- Pray for each of our church members

If you'd like to see/hear a **French worship song**, here's the Marseille church's virtual choir: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fk24w5DdKkE

Contributions can be sent to:

White Station Church of Christ
Attn: Hendrix Mission Fund

atraid? ... Une thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple. For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock." (Psalm *27*)



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Contact: Jack Bond, Phone 901-550-1585, ibond2202@comcast.net Missions elder: Richie Lynn, Phone 901-606-5999, RBALynn@gmail.com

If you ever want to make a contribution, be sure to write "Hendrix Mission" on the memo line.

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