
Hendrix June 2017

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

A lot of rejuvenating good news from Lyon and elsewhere in the French-speaking world!
MERCI to all of you who support us financially and prayerfully. We couldn't carry out our mission without your help.

You might need to click on "View entire message" at the very bottom of this message to see all the photos.

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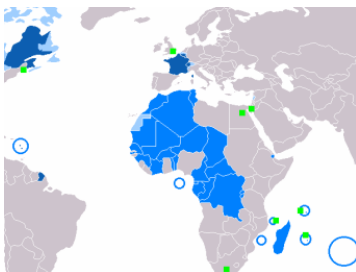
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LYON

Our **congregational retreat** was held at a 17th century estate near Lyon. We had it on "Easter Monday", which is a holiday in France. This year we had 76% participation! We focused on planning for better service, more outreach and increased inter-generational interaction. Each member was asked to commit to various projects. It was great seeing everyone's positive attitude.



A global outreach to the
French-speaking world

BEYOND LYON

Switzerland: Once a year the Geneva church has a **missions banquet**, and we try to attend when we can. Over the years they have contributed to our mission trips. This year we were invited to report on the work in Guadeloupe and to also present a short message promoting evangelism.

Au revoir: Doyle & Barbara KEE, missionaries in Geneva for 47 years, are moving in September to Searcy, Arkansas, where they will continue working with French-speaking



missions & correspondence courses. The time is right because the Geneva congregation is mature and will carry on without them. Yet Doyle & Barbara will be greatly missed because they have been active in the lives of so many people & churches. They have been a huge part of my life since meeting them in New York in 1968. They moved to Geneva in 1970, and I moved there in 1974. Pamela was their church secretary for 2 years. Ever since, our lives & ministries have often been interwoven. The Kees & the Geneva church helped us begin the Lyon work in 1975. Another page turned & the story goes on.



Central France: The **family retreat** for French-speaking churches of Christ is held every year over the 4-day Ascension holiday weekend. Lyon is lucky to be the closest congregation (2.5 hours away). This year 130 attended, and the theme for both adults & children was "Fear Not". Highlights were the singing, lessons & fellowship. We're pleased to see how many young adults are dedicated to the Lord and active in their respective churches.



Our church's **young adults** organized a weekend in Lyon for 20 of their peers from Geneva, Lille, Marseille & Paris. Two of them presented lessons, and they were also in charge of Sunday worship. Two of us older Christians were asked to speak as well: one about his faith journey and me on the importance of forgiveness.





You can click on pictures to make them bigger!



Arlin was 1 of the speakers



Singing God's praise

Le Mans, western France: One facet of our ministry is helping marriages & helping people recover from conflict. In 2013 we gave our couples' seminar at a church with origins similar to Brethren churches, and we met privately with 11 couples. This spring we returned to **help people heal** because in 2016 their congregation had split.



Our younger ranks are growing! **Andrea MARROQUIN** from Mexico is doing a business internship here until fall, and afterward she hopes to do the Christian internship in Marseille.



In addition, Pamela taught the ladies a seminar on anger. We have also been counseling a couple with marital problems.



FAMILY

As I write this newsletter, Pamela is spending 3 weeks in Oklahoma with her mother, **Lois WHITESELL**.

She celebrates her 92nd birthday on June 25. Our daughter **Jana** & her 3 children also joined them for 4 days. Looks like they're having a great time. I'm missing out because I'm holding down the fort.

We're thankful Lois is doing so well. The 2016 WHO statistics show life expectancy in France as 82; in the U.S. it's 79. In France the *healthy life expectancy* is 72 years; 69 in the United States. (Source: WHO statistics, 2016)

One good thing about getting older is I'm comfortable not knowing all the answers! Plus it seems our older friends seek more spirituality and feel the need for deeper meaning in life.



The other 2 additions are **Nicolas & Mélina (Panzano) RUIZ**, who grew up in Christian families in Geneva and got married June 3. Nicolas has a job in Lyon so we're thrilled to have them join us. This is a special blessing for Pamela & me since we're close to both families and hope to see them more often.

And that's good.

Prayers

- Continued supplications for God to help us find a new meeting place
- For unity in Christ's church
- Doyle & Barbara Kee
- Philippe & Rose-Marie
- Gratitude for our Christian friends who help us "keep on keeping on"
- Thanksgiving for our new home & our good health
- For God's care for our family far away (That separation doesn't get any easier as the years go by!)

Tax-deductible contributions can be sent to:
Church of Christ
Attn: Larry Byte
320 North Poplar
Guthrie, OK 73044
mbyte@web-host.net



We moved 600 plants & 3 hedgehogs from our old home. We had told everyone 300, but after counting it was actually 600!



FRIENDS

We enjoy having company, and the Lord has blessed us with a new home where we can continue that tradition. Our recent visitors include **Karl-Heinz & Nicole HOFFMANN** from Switzerland, and **Danielle VATIN** from Paris. Nicole was converted in Lyon and lived with us for 14 months before marrying Karl-Heinz in 2005. Danielle is originally from Guadeloupe and was often visiting there during our many mission trips, when she would spoil us with her hospitality & gourmet cuisine.

One other recent visitor was **Florencia MOEBIUS** from Germany. Her boys & ours grew up together and are still good friends. Prior to their move back to Germany, we attended church and studied the Bible together. We still mourn her husband Gerald's death in 2011. But it was so nice to catch up with Flo.

Our good friend **Philippe** & his wife **Rose Marie** are suffering through Philippe's stomach cancer. (Their daughter was Jana's best friend in high school.) We try to minister to them and bring them peace through coming to know God. We can now talk openly about spiritual things and we pray with them. May they come to a closer walk with God before this life is over!

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of



**all comfort who comforts us in all our affliction,
so that we may be able to comfort those who
are in any affliction, with the comfort with
which we ourselves are comforted by God.”
(2 Corinthians 1)**

I've always liked this poem by Emily Dickinson. I quoted it
in my speech at my high school graduation.

“If I can stop one heart from breaking,
I shall not live in vain.
If I can ease one life the aching,
Or cool one pain,
Or help a poor fainting robin into his nest again,
I shall not live in vain.”



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