

Hendrix July 2015

1 message

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Quite frankly, our highlight last month was the visit of our daughter's family!

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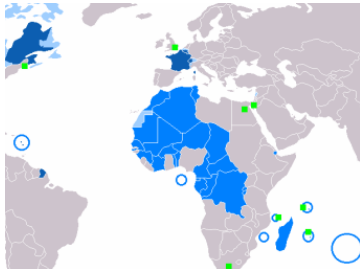
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LYON

Once or twice a year our church pays for a license to show a movie for the public. In May we showed the French version of **The Hope**, which gives an overview of the Bible in 80 minutes. We were pleased with the number of visitors and good discussion afterwards.

The daughter of our newest member is a mature 13-year-old who chose last year to go through the baptism catechism of the Catholic school where she attends. **Camélia** understands her commitment to Christ, but did not know until recently that baptism in the Bible was by immersion. She asked to study the question with me, and she is now processing the



A global outreach touching all parts of the French-speaking world

FAMILY

We were thrilled in June to have the visit of our daughter **Jana's family**: Jana & Timothy with their children Tristan, Judy and Melody, ages 11, 9 & 7. Timothy helped me trim our huge hedge over 5 days (3 hours a day). We were also able to make a short trip to the Dordogne region of France.



Visit of daughter Jana's family

information.

At church we've had a number of visitors lately. The Sunday of our June potluck, we had **11 visitors**. Please continue praying for God to help us find a larger meeting place.



CENTRAL FRANCE

The annual May retreat at the **Bonnefoi Christian camp** was another success. We were able to take some friends from Guadeloupe for their first time. They were overwhelmed with love, singing in a big crowd and the spiritual lessons – and the changes in the weather. It was 86°F when we arrived and the next day it snowed, the first time Rémy had experienced snow!



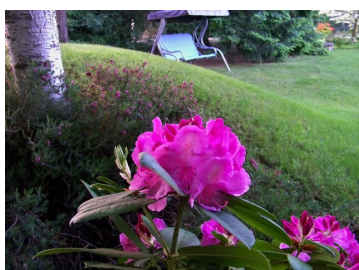
Were people really this short back then?



Kind of castle every boy dreams of



Cuddletime with Mamie before bed



Invitation to come rest



MARSEILLE

Pamela & I participated in **Marseille's** program to help young couples prepare for marriage. We met with 7 young adults and talked about communication, anger and sexuality in marriage. The questions and discussion was very interesting.



FRIENDS

Turnabout is fair play: We were finally able to have **Rémy & Marguerite RAMASSAMY** from Guadeloupe in our home. During our many mission trips there, they have frequently hosted us and served us great meals. This time it was nice to be able to spoil them.



Rémy & Marguerite from
Guadeloupe



Beverly, Pamela's faithful friend
for 40 years

Prayers

- Continued thanksgiving for the Lyon Church of Christ outgrowing its current facilities
- Continued supplications for God to help us find a new meeting place
- For the faith of searchers who have been visiting our services
- Praise for the many ways God gives us to share the Good News
- That we will all seek & seize opportunities to share the Good News
- Gratitude to the Marseille church for all their hard work at camp
- Thanksgiving for family and friends

Do you know

We also hosted **Danielle VATIN** & her grandson Nils for a meal and afternoon visit before taking them to an awards ceremony of Danielle's granddaughter. Danielle is from Guadeloupe, but lives in Paris.

Close friends from Oklahoma, **David & Beverly NORTH**, paid us a short visit so we got to spoil them too. It was their first time to visit Lyon, and it was fun to give them some French hospitality.

Our next visitors were from Australia. **Boof & Alice HORNE**, actually working in England, made an airplane hop to come see us. They came last December, and we enjoyed each other so much that they decided to come back this spring.

ReCHRISTianizing France

(Article by **Max Dauner** in Marseille)

In 520 B.C., God sent the prophet Haggai to speak to the repatriated Judeans who felt discouraged in their work of rebuilding the temple of Jerusalem that had been destroyed by Babylon. The prophet asked them, "Compared to Solomon's temple, what you are trying to build on its ruins doesn't seem like much, does it ?" They would have agreed. Some were thinking, "So why bother?"

But then God makes a promise: "The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house. And in this place I will grant peace." (Haggai 2.9.) The temple had to be rebuilt, ultimately, because the Messiah was due to come to it. In his person, the Word made flesh would manifest the full glory of the Father and bring His peace to mankind. He would fulfill in his person what the temple could only prefigure.

Working in a country filled with magnificent cathedrals and other impressive vestiges of French Christendom, it is easy for us to think that compared to former glories, the small community of faith we are building in Marseilles doesn't look like much. But we must continue to build for the same reason as the Jews of Haggai's time. The real Messiah had at one time

what phrase is
repeated most
in the
Bible? **DON'T
BE AFRAID!**

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come to France; and if there is any hope for this country, the real Messiah must come to it again. What I mean is that the present crisis afflicting French society is not economic or political, but spiritual. It is a crisis of Christlessness.

A growing number of French people (40 %) openly declare themselves atheists, as opposed to less than 10% when I arrived in France over 40 years ago. Most adults we meet and almost all children know practically *nothing* about Jesus. But there is worse. A large number of practicing Christians in our country do not know Him well. They may know some basic doctrines about him. But they do not know Jesus himself because they do not know how to read the Gospels, the place where Jesus is the most directly, fully and concretely present.

It is not that they ignore the Gospels, but they do not let them speak for themselves. They come to them with preconceived ideas and agendas, choosing texts that seem to back up their particular doctrinal views or ecclesiastical practices. At best, that kind of reading gives a superficial and fragmented understanding of the Gospels and thus of Jesus. At worst, it allows people to entertain enormous misconceptions about what kind of Messiah he really is. It allows them to remake Jesus in their own image.

One thing I have observed over the years: our understanding of Jesus and our religious mind-set are intimately related. However, it is much better to let Jesus inform our religious mind-set than to let our religious mind-set shape our view of Jesus.

As I get older, my teaching has tended to become monothematic. (Is that even a word in English?) In every possible way, place and time, I try to take people back to the Gospels and to Jesus. Of course, my mission work involves all kinds of other ministries and doctrinal instruction. But recounting and explaining the Gospels is the one specific direction my personal role as a missionary has taken. And it is the direction, so help me God, to which I will devote the rest of my time on this earth.

Nothing less than the Christ himself could Christianize France; nothing less than the absence of Christ himself could dechristianize France; and nothing less

than Christ himself can rechristianize France. In his farewell discourse, Jesus makes an amazing promise to his Apostles. He says that if they come to know him and believe in him as the Messiah he really is, then he will come personally dwell in them. Not a physical presence, but a real presence. This is what France needs. This is what we ALL need.

What will happen, what sound will replace the rumblings of a crumbling Christendom if we bathe in the presence of the true Christ? We will hear the hammering of hammers and the sawing of saws and the songs of joy as God's house rises from its ashes.

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