HENDRIX NEWSLETTER—LYON. FRANCE

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

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During Rick & Karen's visit, our close friends **Doyle & Barbara KEE** from Geneva came over for a day. I say friends, but in many ways they are like family – often spending Christmas together and Barbara taking care of our children when Pamela & I went out of town. We enjoyed this visit as always.

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Melisa CLARK, a former Lyon church member, came back to town and we were able to have her over for a bit. We had hoped to see her more but, with Pamela's 3- week treatment in Marseille, the timing did not work out.

and be thankful.



LYON

Charles & Pam WHITE, who have been in Lyon since 1987, have announced they will be moving back to the States due to health reasons. Charles is having surgery here next month, which will delay their departure. All this means a very difficult transition for them, and we ask your prayers on their behalf. They will of course be missed by many. Our church's adaptation to the new situation here without them is already in the works. We request prayers in that respect as well.

On Friday nights Pamela & I continue our studies of the Gospel of Mark with *Xavier & Nicole*. We often take advantage of that time to also share a meal, and they have been kind to invite me over for supper several times when Pamela has been out of town.

BEYOND LYON

Each year there is a retreat for church leaders in French-speaking Europe. At our latest one, all but one of the French-speaking churches of Christ were represented. We had studies about the challenges of our leadership roles & discussions of various projects. The singing, praying & Sunday worship were also special moments we shared.



As those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another

and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body;

(Colossians 3)

FAMILY

Pamela's sulfur springs treatment in November helped the symptoms but did not eradicate the sinus infection she has had since 12/09. She then consulted a national sinus specialist in Paris, and he confirmed that there is no tumor, but he will still have to operate. This will be her third sinus surgery in 2-1/2 years. Pamela will see him again Feb. 11 to discuss procedures in detail. She feels OK (mainly tired all the time), but everyone says that it is NOT good to leave infection like that for this long.

In November we had a memorable 10-day visit from our daughter's family: Rick, Karen, Matthew (7), Lydia (5), Emily (3) Caleb (1) LOVE. They have been missionaries in Zambia since 2008. It had been 2 years since we saw them, and we had not yet met Caleb. It was so good to see them and get acquainted again with the children.

We also got to spend the holidays with family. In Texas our daughter Jana, together with Timothy, Tristan (8), Judy (6) & Melody (4) JOHNSTON, graciously hosted Christmas with 3 of our 4 children present. Nathan flew in from South Korea, and Daniel & his girlfriend drove 4 hours from Austin, Texas. What a wonderful reunion!

"The pleasures of the table, and of life, are infinite - toujours bon appétit!" (From the movie <u>Julie and Julia</u>)

Pamela & I then spent several days with her parents in Oklahoma. V.M. & Lois WHITESELL, 90 & 87 years old, are blessed with the health to still live in their own home. There again, we had a precious visit. "Happy memories let you take a break from negativity; nostalgia is a holiday in your mind." (Remembrance of Things Past by Jonathan Vatner)



Above: Our daughter Karen's family in our home in Lyon

Right: All the rest of us at our daughter Jana's in Texas



PLEASE PRAY:

- For the Whites' health & their transition back to the States
- That God will help the Lyon church adapt well after the Whites' departure
- That Nicole, in learning about Jesus, will want to follow him with all her heart, soul, mind & strength
- That each of us will want to follow Jesus with all our heart, soul, mind & strength
- For church leaders in France & throughout the world
- For our family scattered over 4 continents
- For healing for Pamela (yet trusting God knows what's best for us & his kingdom)

Note from Pamela: In Oklahoma I also relished my time with several girlfriends, both younger & older than I. They help me see where I've been AND where I'm going. They refresh me with love, faith, trust, laughter, inspiration & soul-sustaining intimacy. I like this quote from the book Friends Forever:

"Friendships that endure are those that provide unconditional acceptance, compassionate honesty and mutual trust. We need friends who have been around the block a time or two and will help us turn the corners in life, as well as friends who will energize and inspire us with new perspectives and unique insights — and who may also appreciate our support as they navigate their ways through life."

