

HENDRIX NEWSLETTER—LYON, FRANCE

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



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LYON NEWS

Marriage seminar on home turf: Our tenth marriage seminar took place in Lyon the last 2 weekends of January. We were pleased to have 62 participants, including 21 members of the local Assemblée Chrétienne (formerly the International Church of Christ). There were too many for our church building, so we rented a Catholic parish hall.

To our knowledge we are the only couple in the French-speaking world actively conducting marriage seminars. In 2009, France had 256,000 weddings and 180,000 common-law unions (40 percent). Therefore our seminars are for those married and not married, of all faiths and even no faith (atheists). We state up front that we are Christians and believe God is the answer to healthy & happy relationships, and we invoke Biblical examples. Everyone through the years has said how much the seminar has helped them, and several are now studying the Bible.

Here is what one Lyon couple wrote us this month. He is a Christian and she is not:

The older we get, the more we realize our shortcomings and the need for help... We were touched by your sincerity, your illustrations and the sharing of certain events in your lives. We were pushed to recognize our faults & weaknesses and to accept our spouse's differences without judging. We were encouraged to change some of our attitudes and expectations in order to show our love.



Marriage seminar in Lyon with 62 participants



Birthday present: The Lyon congregation gave us opera tickets for my 60th birthday. We were unable to attend at the time, and last month we finally got to go. We really appreciated their kind gift.

FRIENDS

Et oui, we were blessed again to have numerous visitors in our home. **Yedid, Maria & Lesley MINJARES** from California came over one Sunday for dinner. Yedid was in Lyon as a student in 2006, and fell in love with the city & the Christians here. This time she came back for a visit with her mother & sister.

François & Arlette AEBI from Geneva came for a weekend visit. We have a number of close friends in Switzerland, including the Aebis. François also blessed us with an excellent sermon on Sunday.

We also enjoyed having **John-Mark & Jamie WILLITS** and their 2 children with us for a couple of days. They are Americans studying French in Albertville to prepare for mission work in French-speaking Guinea.

Then 3 teens in our congregation had a sleepover at our house for 2 nights. These young people are a joy to be around.

Doug & Elizabeth WILLIAMS have moved in with us until the end of the school year. (They teach English in 2 schools north of Lyon.) Their apartment situation did not work out, so we invited them to stay with us rather than search for another apartment for such a short time. Doug & Liz are a real help & encouragement, and we enjoy having kids home again.



PLEASE PRAY:

- **For God's peace and comfort to Kimberly's family**
- **For earthquake victims in Haiti and Chile**
- **That we show compassion, and that those touched by tragedy will hold fast to God**
- **For our aging parents**
- **That those attending our marriage seminar will apply what they have learned**
- **God's blessings on our upcoming mission to Guadeloupe in the Caribbean**
- **Praise to God for all the Christians who have touched our lives. May we pass it on.**

Our prayer for you all:

That you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge. (Ephesians 3:17-19)

BEYOND LYON

SWITZERLAND

The annual retreat for French-speaking Swiss churches is held near Lausanne (2 hours from Lyon). This year I taught 2 lessons: *Understanding God's Love* and *Remaining in God's Love*. I also guided 3 discussion sessions for the teens, and led songs & a devotional for the whole group of 80.

HAITI

Five of our church members moved here from Haiti, so there was special concern for the suffering caused by the earthquake. Although most members have low incomes, they generously contributed \$2600 toward relief. We pray that such tragedies will give cause for ponder about God & the meaning of life. According to 2009 Readers Digest surveys, only 50 percent of the French believe in heaven and only 24 percent pray.



On a normal day, 4000 bikes are for rent in Lyon for 1 euro per day, but in January 2010, not many bikes were operational at Lyon's 340 stations



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PERSONAL NEWS

This has been a big snow year in Lyon. January had 16 days with snow on the ground, and the biggest accumulation was 8 inches. We did enjoy it, especially our Labrador *Nikki*, who is 12 years old but acted like a puppy playing in the snow.

Our children & grandchildren are doing well. Our parents (in their late 80's) have their health challenges, especially my mother who is in a nursing home in California.

We request your prayers for the family of our niece, *Kimberly BUICE*. She was the daughter of Pamela's brother *David* and his wife *Donna WHITESELL* in Nashville. Kimberly was killed in a car accident, leaving behind her husband *Tommy* and their 2-year-old son. It is hard being away from family at times like this.