

# Charles and Pam White's Monthly Report from Lyon, France



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## March 2010

Dear Friends and Family,

I am delighted to be writing this letter from home in Lyon, where I returned on the 3rd of March, and Pam on the 20th. By now I have just about finished with jet lag (yes, it takes me three weeks) and Pam is still in the throes of it. But we're both glad to be back into the work here.

Before I continue, I am indebted to my good friend and brother Ed Ritchie for having cleared the air on the pronunciation of the word "February", which can apparently be pronounced with or without that first "r". That having been said, my own Webster's New World Dictionary (1966) says that the "r" is dropped "by dissimulation". But that was over 40 years ago. The world has changed, apparently. Thanks, Ed.

Upon our return, we found the Church here active and very much alive, not that we expected anything else. During our absence, the men who are our leaders did even more leading, and so our being gone was good for them. Just a few days after my return, I preached a special lesson on a "Visitors' Day" for which we had four visitors who had never been to our services before. They were personally invited and brought by our members. Three are people on the daily route of our member who is a mailman. He says he took advantage of delivering registered letters to invite these people. That's what I call special delivery! The lesson was on God's invitation to all mankind. We had a potluck after the service and, in all, had a great day.

Immediately upon arrival, I took up again the Tuesday night Bible class and began a study of the book of Deuteronomy from a Christian perspective. I'm learning a lot, and I hope the others are, as well. We are all being amazed at the possible applications of this text to our Christian walk, as Paul said: "Whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that through patience and through comfort of the scriptures we might have hope" (Rom. 15.4). Each lesson on Deuteronomy is wrapped up by a look at those three elements: patience, comfort of the scriptures, and hope.

During our time in the States, I reported directly to 16 of our supporting Churches, preached seven times and spoke personally to many mission committees and elderships: to about a zillion people (well, almost!), in fact. The Lord permitted us to raise new funding from four different congregations, three of which have never been "on board" with us before. We obtained 100 % of the fund-raising goal we had set, and are very grateful to those brethren who are taking up the challenge to support a difficult work, but a work that needs to be done. And I want to thank all of you who have been with us for so long. May we all continue to work together toward the goal of turning many lives toward the Lord in this old culture.

Here's another great development for us: After looking for several years for a housing solution for Pam's parents, it became possible just before our return to get them both into assisted living. The move was rapid and Pam took on "transfer" responsibility (I had already left for Lyon), but all went well and Andy and Elwanda are now at "The Landing" in New Orleans. They still have their house (Pam's sister Mary will be staying there), but their new address is: The Landing, 3601 Behrman Place, New Orleans, LA 70114. Their phone is: (504) 362-1200. They also have a PRESTO machine on which they can receive an e-mails: [ThePiskoriks@presto.com](mailto:ThePiskoriks@presto.com). I'm sure they would love to hear from any of you who know them.

One thing that struck us while we were in the States was the number of people who came to us for spiritual advice on different matters. Though this is a fairly normal occurrence on all of our reporting trips, it remains an extremely humbling experience. As far as that goes, one of the most challenging aspects of our lives here in Lyon is the counseling that we are expected to do. I can't tell you how many people we have counseled for problems of all types: marital, financial, interpersonal, spiritual, you name it. Of course, with age and experience, coupled with long study of the Word, some things (some, I say) get easier to discern. But I have often wished that I had some academic work in spiritual counseling in my bags. (That's a word of advice to you future missionaries out there.)

When we left Colorado Springs, Tess was doing well. We are so proud of her and Stephen, having watched them weather a hefty storm in the past few months. They have shown lots of maturity in their relationship with each other, as well as with the Lord. We are proud of them both.

We also got to spend some brief but very, very special time with Tami and Matt and their children while in Colorado Springs. We're hoping to get them back over here to visit sometime.

During this last week of March, Tia and Jeff are here in Lyon to visit with their two children, Ameleah and Davis. You may remember that Davis was born in Lyon last July. We're enjoying our time with them.

Next Monday, the 5th of April, called "Easter Monday" here, is a national holiday. The Church has taken to doing its annual internal retreat on that day. We will begin at 9:30 in the morning at the meeting place, go till noon and eat lunch together, then move out to the home of one of the members for the afternoon session, which will last until about 6:00 P. M. The theme this year is: "My relationship with God" and will include lessons, discussions, singing and prayer. Most of our men will participate. Some, who have to be absent, will even have their lesson read to the group. I'll have more to tell you about this retreat in the April letter.

The birds are singing this morning as I write. It certainly sounds like an articulated language, as it most certainly must be. I just wish I could understand them. One blackbird (I really think it is the same one) likes to perch at the top of the tree right off my balcony at about the same time most mornings and chirp very loudly. I prefer to think he is singing to me, and perhaps he is saying: "A very good morning to you. Yes, I'm talking to you. Now, get back to work!"

Which I now must do. Thanks for reading right to the end. Pam and I are ever grateful for all of you and for the love that perseveres in your hearts. May the Lord bless you, today!

Sincerely,

Charles and Pam