

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



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- A work of the 151<sup>st</sup> Street Church of Christ in Olathe, Kansas -

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## MAY 2010

Dear Christian Family,

It has been a busy month, but before we get into it, I want to tell you this. Ezra Lucas Jr., a good friend and brother in the States, has just published a book called *The Jonah Complex*. It is about how to forgive. He has asked me to put the word out, and I am glad to do so. The book can be ordered on-line at [www.Xlibris.com](http://www.Xlibris.com). The trade paperback price is pretty stiff (\$15.99), so you might prefer the eBook version (\$9.99). This young man has done a lot of work on this book and could use some encouragement. Besides that, he has some very good things to say!

One large delight in May was the visit of Richard Wolfe, the preacher at the 151<sup>st</sup> Street Church of Christ in Olathe, Kansas (our sponsoring congregation). Richard came to Europe for several reasons: 1) to visit the work in Lyon ; 2) to speak at the annual family retreat of the French speaking Churches of Christ ; 3) to visit and encourage the Church in Liège, Belgium, where he and his family lived and worked for 22 years, from 1971 to 1993. Richard exhorted us during our worship period on May 9<sup>th</sup> ; then he spoke twice at the family retreat, on the book of Ecclesiastes. His French has remained excellent over the 17 years he has been away from Europe; the only criticism I would have is that he speaks with a Belgian accent! Just joking. It was really great to have Richard with us for a few days. We missed seeing his wife Jade, who was not able to travel with him this time. Richard and Jade made a large contribution to the French work in the many years they worked here, and all of us who worked with them will remember and love them to the end of our days. Pam and I remember the Christmas times our two families spent together way back when. Our three girls and their two boys became — and have remained — good friends. Precious memories.

Last month I announced the birth of a baby to one of our young couples. Another of our couples had a baby this month. I have to tell you about the unique name he was given. It's a boy, and when I asked his name, the father told me (here's what it sounded like:) EE-VEN. So, I thought it would be Yven (as in Yvan), or something like that. As I spelled it out to make sure I was understanding, the father corrected me: H-E-A-V-E-N. This child is not only from heaven, that's his name, too! We are very happy to welcome him. Mother and child are

doing well and so are the father and sister. Another of our couples is expecting a child in July. I'll be sure to tell you about that arrival, too.

I just returned from three days in Marseille to teach the book of Hebrews to the four students in their "Christians in Missions" one-year school. The Marseilles church works uniquely in their neighborhood, so they have lots of activities for the children around them. While I was there, they were preparing a program for the children and were in heavy rehearsals. It was fun to see the kids so excited about the event. The four students I taught are quite serious about their studies. They asked some excellent questions and listened well during the 18 hours we studied together.

Speaking of the book of Hebrews. Several people have asked if my book on Hebrews (*De l'ombre à la réalité*) is available in English. It is not. I am working on a translation, but it's a pretty tedious process, because 1) it is a commentary (!), and 2) it must be worked on during "off" moments. It is coming along, but I hope you are not in a hurry!

This month the Church in Lyon is sending its twice-annual gift to the Bétikara children's home in Madagascar. We are currently supporting five children there. Our contributing members are glad to be able to help these children who have no parents but who have been taken in and are being cared for at Bétikara. You can check out the Bétikara work at:

<http://www.madagascar-mission.org/>

<http://www.madagascar-mission.org/orphanage.htm>

The retreat I mentioned above was from a Wednesday through Saturday. The theme this year was "Edification," with special emphasis on fathers and sons. The major attraction (outside of Richard's presence) was the fact that several sessions were directed by a father and a son working together in the same congregation. It was a way of showing that the Church in Europe has grown into its second generation and that we have a new group of young people taking on responsibility and carrying on the work into the future. It's a great sign of maturity and an encouragement to all of us who have worked here for so long. Brethren, the Church in French-speaking Europe is strong and stable, even if its numbers are not what many would like. But numbers aren't the criterion, if I read my Bible correctly. Pray for the Church in French Europe, and for all those who are working to take it into the next generation.

In June, the Lyon Church will hold its annual planning meeting. We will be setting up our goals and plans for the next "cycle" of work, from September 2010 to August 2011. Also in June, we will have the visit of the McCready group from Harding. I'll be telling you about all of that in the next letter.

The news from the girls is good. We hope to see Tia and Jeff and children sometime during July.

Most of you should hear from us during June or early July. We want to thank you all for your encouragement and your prayers. May the Lord bless and guide you, today!

Sincerely,

Charles and Pam