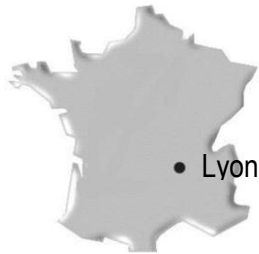


Charles and Pam White's Monthly Report from Lyon, France



Charles Otis White
6 Impasse Millon
69100 Villeurbanne
France
E-Mail: cwhitelyon@aol.com

- A work of the 151st Street Church of Christ in Olathe, Kansas -

www.151cofc.com
E-Mail: info@151cofc.com
913-829-5596

December 2011

Dear ones in the Lord,

This is the way I like to begin a letter: We rejoiced last Monday afternoon at the baptism of Marie-Thérèse, a lady of 77 who has been attending our services for several months. She lives in the apartment building just next to our meeting place, and is (or was) a neighbor of one of our members who is now in a nursing home. Marie-Thérèse came because of her neighbor's influence, and also, she says, because she could hear us singing! She had been a Catholic and a Protestant, and now is very happy to call herself just a Christian. The baptism was a little difficult because I had filled the baptistery with warm water, but too soon, so that it was quite cold for Marie-Thérèse; I admit that I hurried the actual baptism a bit, for that reason. She did well, though. We spent quite a bit of time before and after, singing and praying with her. It was a great day for the Church in Lyon! Please pray for this new member of the Lord's growing family!

For those of you who usually receive a card and a note from us at Christmas time, that correspondence won't be coming this year. We've had to cut back some expenses for different reasons, financial and other. Allow me to take advantage of this December newsletter to thank you all for your continued participation with us — through your prayers and your giving — in this work among the French. And to wish all of you

A warm and happy Christmas season

and

A year 2012 filled with the peace and joy of our Lord!

Now, the December letter is traditionally one of reflection. I think I will make it rather a letter of reflective recapitulation. I have just looked back over the letters I've sent you this year, and I am pleasantly surprised at all that has been done to build up the Church, to reach out to neighbors, and to glorify the Lord. That last sentence reminds me of a passage I used in my last sermon, from Jeremiah 9.24:

Let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things, declares the LORD.

I can mention that our Bible studies this year have concentrated on those great men who are called "minor" prophets, and also on better understanding the Calvinistic doctrines of election and predestination. The Lyon assembly also organized and prepared the program for two European retreats, one on the role of women in the plan of God, the other on the importance of evangelism by all members of the Lord's Church. We also held our own internal retreat, taking lessons from the prophet Daniel and being exhorted by several men of the congregation.

Throughout the year, I have been mentioning our activities in view of the selection of elders for the congregation. Actual preparation of these men for this high responsibility has been under way for many years; we have lately been confirming this teaching and actually moving into the selection process. The original plan was to be able to name the men in September of 2012. Reaching that goal might seem a bit difficult right now, though it is not at all impossible. Time will tell, but we're getting there! We have lately had several meetings of the men to work on developing a process for decision-making in the contexts of doctrinal issues and matters of opinion. It has been quite challenging, but productive all the same. I am personally quite humbled to see the desire of these men to serve the Lord in this capacity.

We had three large outreach efforts this year. In the spring, the Chorale Harmonie sang for us in a Catholic Church just outside of town. This gave our teens and our teens' teacher a chance to share their faith with a group of Catholic teens who were accompanied by a priest and seminarian. In the early summer, we had the Harding McCready group with us for ten days. They did a mini vacation Bible school for our children, and Robert did some excellent teaching for the Church and its visitors on the subject of our relationship with God and His family. In the fall, we had another seminar, this one on the subject of resurrection, taught by Brady Smith of Lausanne. All of these activities involved announcements made to neighbors and friends, and the opportunity to distribute large numbers of invitations for our correspondence courses.

This was a year of horrendous natural disasters, such as the tsunami in Japan and the tornadoes and hurricanes in the USA. Economic disasters also affected (and are still affecting) the world monetary system. In Lyon, we contributed to the effort to help our sister congregations in Japan. Pam and I were particularly impressed that, after the tornadoes in the USA, the Bethel Church of Christ in Athens, Alabama, whose building was completely leveled, did not stop sending their monthly support.

The last subject I will mention is our health. In just a few days, we will fly to Houston, where Pam will have her 2nd knee replacement operation on the 27th of January. We covet your prayers for that travel and for that medical procedure (and recovery). Our next two letters will, therefore, come from Texas! And we ask your prayers for me, as my fibromyalgia seems to have moved into high gear in the past year or so. The Lord knows what is best.

And, with that, I will leave you on this end-of-December day. Words are inadequate to tell you how much we love and appreciate you all. Again, we hope you will have a great holiday season and New Year. May the Lord of goodness and mercy bless you, today!

Sincerely,

Charles and Pam