

HENDRIX NEWSLETTER

LYON, FRANCE

Service to God and man in the French-speaking world (I Corinthians 3:5)

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February-March 2005

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LYON AND BEYOND

Another new church member! **Laura Whitney** was converted in Vermont and is teaching English in Lyon through April. Since learning about our congregation, she has been very faithful in attendance and an encouragement to us all.

Bible seminar: In January **Philippe Dauner** from Marseille presented 3 studies centering around the prophet Jonah. He is the son of **Max & Prisca Dauner**, former workers in Lyon. He is the 4th generation of preachers here in France! His great-grandfather, **Mathurin Lecardinal**, preached and was an elder in Paris. His grandfather, **Don Daugherty**, was a missionary in Paris, and his father Max is a missionary in Marseille.

Wedding: In January, one of our members, **Nicole Allèbe**, married a Swiss Christian, **Karl Heinz Hoffmann**, in a civil ceremony near Bern. Their religious ceremony was then held in Lyon, and Charles White and I officiated. The Lyon church lost a dear sister, but our loss is Bern's gain.

Burkina Faso: February 9-28, Pamela & I were in Burkina Faso, West Africa. We went to the small town of Dano, 3 hours from the capital Ouagadougou, to help and encourage the 4 missionary couples who had studied French in Lyon before beginning their work. One couple was on furlough. We met **Chad & Amy Carter** for the first time, as they had been in Lyon during our time at Oklahoma Christian University. We renewed ties with **Andy &**

Melissa Johnson and Archie & Mandy Chankin (and met their 10-month-old daughter) — we consider them like our own children.

We got to share some thoughts and counsel, and we viewed and discussed with them the Jerry & Lynn Jones videos, “Marriage Matters”.

Another thing Pamela & I did was distribute chewable vitamins for children — many suffer from malnutrition and some run naked in the villages. Huts are made of mud bricks or carved stone. Women fetch water from wells, cook outside over a fire, and carry huge loads on their head, often toting a baby on their back as well. Pigs, goats, chickens & donkeys wander all over the place.

There are no real stores in Dano, but at the market you can buy poultry (live!), peanuts, cornmeal, produce, local fast food (bean-curd fritters, dried-fish sauce), shea butter, soap, baskets, cotton fabric & basic hardware supplies.

The weather was very hot and dry. Winds were coming off the Sahara desert with dust penetrating into houses and pores and settling on everything. The dust was so thick that we could barely see neighboring houses and the sun looked like an eclipse. It was 110° Fahrenheit most days.

We were warmly welcomed: not only wonderful hospitality from our friends, but also from their neighbors. Twice we were served traditional African meals in homes of their friends: new tastes and textures such as corn mush with tomato/leaf/onion sauce, then homemade plain yogurt. Another family even presented us with a live chicken.

After a year of intense study of the Dagara tribal language, the missionaries were able to begin teaching the people, who are mostly animist. In the past year, around 80 people have been baptized in 4 villages surrounding Dano.

Besides going twice by car, I accompanied Andy 2 times to the village of Mebar by bicycle — and fell off my bike once! The missionaries often travel on bikes, as this is the main means of transportation for the Dagara and it shows the people that they too can travel to their meeting places and to other villages to evangelize if the white people can do it. In Burkina Faso, we saw more bikes and donkey carts than cars.

Finally, before flying out of Ouagadougou, I preached for one of the congregations in that city. The local preacher had been one of my students at the Bible training school in Cotonou, Benin (also in West Africa).

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

The big news on the family front is that **Rick & Karen Love** are expecting their first baby and our second grandchild in July. Mother and baby are doing fine.

Philippe Dauner and his fiancée, **Dolores Verstraete** from Marseille, stayed in our home during the seminar that Philippe presented. They plan to marry in September.

David Kee, son of missionaries Doyle & Barbara Kee in Geneva, Switzerland, and his colleague **Mike Clever**

were 3-night guests while they attended the annual international culinary fair here in Lyon. They both live in Atlanta. David also preached at church on the Sunday they were here.

Danielle & Nathalie Vatin from Paris spent two nights the weekend of Nicole Allèbe's wedding.

Finally, **Christine Zimmerman** from near Geneva spent one night. She and her husband attended our marriage seminar in Geneva. They said it helped them so much that Christine wanted to reread our texts!



Distributing vitamins at Mebar, Burkina Faso. The church there meets under a tree.

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- The new Christians and contacts in Dano
- Rick & Karen Love and baby
- Philippe Dauner & Delores Verstraete's upcoming marriage
- Christians and contacts in Lyon



Donkey cart delivering hand-cut stone