

Where did any of us get the idea that life was supposed to be easy,
or that loss would pass us by?
The more you love, the more you stand to lose.
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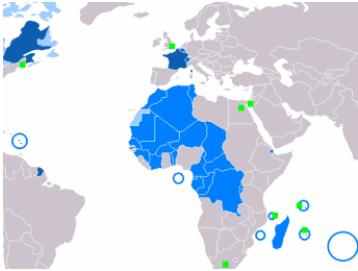


LYON

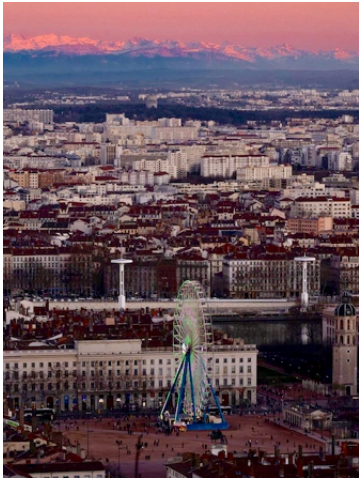
Church members: We rejoice to announce **four newcomers:** Belinda and Joël from Cameroun, Brenda from Madagascar, and Stef from Holland. At the same time, we grieve that two other members are struggling. The Christian walk is not an easy stroll!

Cross: We are seeking to make our meeting place look more like a **place of worship** to French visitors. One idea has finally materialized. Thierry, a brother who's a woodworker in northeastern France, generously crafted a beautiful cross for our auditorium and presented it as a gift to the Lyon church.





Outreach to the French-speaking world



Lyon in January



Foggy winter morning in Lyon



Rhône River, Hôtel Dieu, Basilica



Sunday worship in Lyon



Behind the scenes: Pamela finished teaching a **class series** on the life of David, seeking to have a heart like his. She also organized a bounteous church **potluck** with dishes from the Indian Ocean (Australia, Madagascar, Mauritius, India, Thailand, Korea, etc.)

Coaching: Evertt **HUFFARD**, my friend from college days and former missionary to Nazareth, Israel, is blessing other missionaries throughout the world to help them develop church leaders. He has been coaching me in training mature men who will lead the Lyon church in the future.

BEYOND LYON

Colmar: A preacher in northeastern France, **Aaron PALMER**, asked me to replace him one Sunday in



Croix Rousse district in Lyon

FRIENDS

Apparently the “Hendrix Hotel” doesn’t close in the off-season.

Jonathan LEUTERITZ, a young man working with the Geneva church, came over for a couple of days. We became close to his family in Mauritius, when Pamela and I gave our marriage seminar there in 2006.

Our dear Ukrainian refugee sister, **Mila GOVORUKHA**, now lives in Marseille. Since the 3 of us had no family to celebrate with, Mila came to spend 3 days with us at Christmas. Two other women (both from Madagascar) joined us for a scrumptious turkey dinner.

Justin SMITH from Lausanne brought his family for the weekend when he preached for our visitors’ day. We’ve known Justin since he was a child in Switzerland, and it was great to also spend time with **Martina** and their three bright and polite children.

Prayers

- Thanksgiving for **4 new church members**
- That God will **strengthen those struggling** with their faith
- Blessings on those who **give generously**
- For the **future leaders** of the church
- Praise God for the chorus **Chœur à cœurs**
- We thank God for **our health**, allowing us to continue serving full-time
- Ever grateful for **the Lord’s lovingkindness and faithfulness**

PERSONAL

December. Pamela and I were delighted to meet with this church 4 hours from Lyon, and we were invited into 2 homes for meals. I was moved to learn that one woman is the daughter of one of the first Christians in Lyon when I first moved here in 1975!



Arlin preaching in Colmar, France

Chœur à cœurs: They’ve done it again! Here’s “Dieu, toi seul”, recorded in **Marseille** last summer during the week-long spiritual internship:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=NZSHovkTJsc



In English it’s “You Alone”:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xbp0dekUTTk

Annual retreat: Pamela was responsible for registration, housing and logistics for the ladies’ retreat January 17-19. They had the highest attendance since Covid: **75 participants from French-speaking Switzerland and all over France**. The theme was “We are hard pressed but not crushed.” It was reportedly a wonderful weekend of sharing, spiritual edification and fun.

Loss: A neuropathy disease claimed the 88-year-old wife of our former landlord and **next-door neighbors**. We have been friends for 44 years, and we were deeply touched by Jeanette’s rapid decline. We are visiting her husband more often, and he had lunch with us last week.

The **doctor shortage** is a downside to the famous French medical system. Our general practitioner (GP), dermatologist and Pamela’s gynecologist have retired with no replacement on this side of Lyon. It was particularly emotional to bid **adieu** to our family doctor of 35 years. *Did you know? Every citizen in France is automatically an organ donor unless they decide to opt out.*

We do our best to make our 1/3 acre a **bird haven** because in France the songbird population has diminished by 30% in the last 15 years. (*Les 4 Saisons*, 12/24) For the annual January count sponsored by the French equivalent of the Audubon Society, in one hour we counted 33 birds in our yard. On any given winter day, **12 bird species** flock to the Hendrix buffet.



Long-tailed titmice, blue tit waiting his turn



Ladies' retreat, 75 participants



Teamwork

Spotted woodpecker

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TO ENLARGE

**Contributions can
be sent to:**

White Station Church
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1106 Colonial Road
Memphis, TN 38117

Missions elder:
Richie Lynn,
Phone 901-606-
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RBALynn@gmail.com

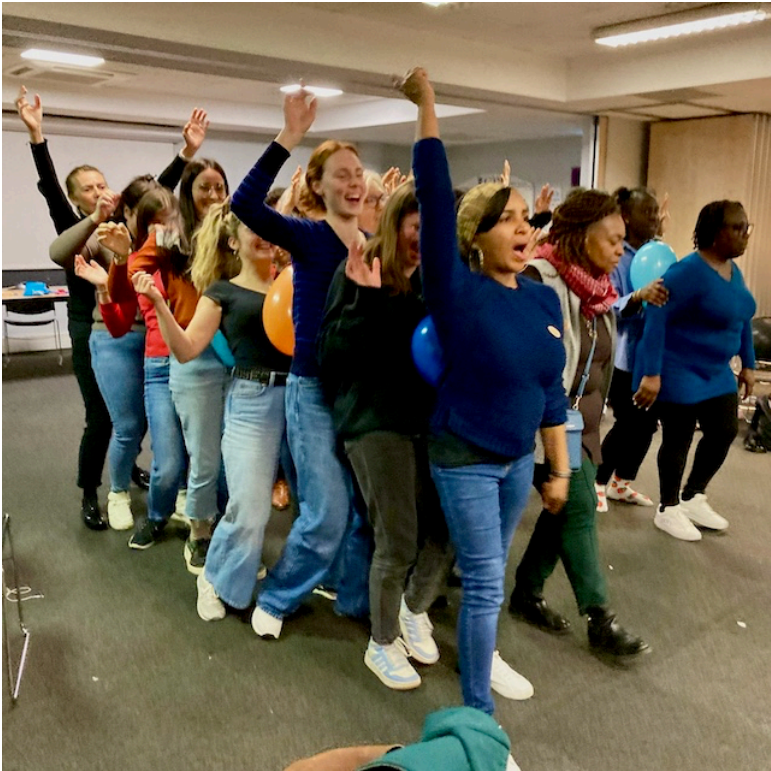
Church treasurer:
Kay Walker,
Phone 901-435-9464,
kwalker@cocws.org

If you ever want to
make a contribution,
be sure to write
"Hendrix Mission" on
the memo line.

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***"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to
show that this all-surpassing power is from God
and not from us. We are hard pressed on every
side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in
despair." (2 Corinthians 4)***



Goldfinch



2 customers at the Hendrix all-you-can-eat buffet

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