

Charles White's Newsletter November 2007
Nov 29, 2007

Dear ones in the Lord,

Last month, I indicated that I would like to tell you "the rest of the story" about our visit to a couple who have become unfaithful. Eight of us went over to their home on a Friday evening to pray with and for them. Before going up to the apartment, the eight of us stood outside and prayed in front of the building. At the beginning of the visit, I told the couple exactly why we were there and what we hoped would be the outcome of our visit. We then had a time of prayer, in which several of the brethren prayed fervently for the couple and for us all, that we would all be faithful and united in the Lord's love. At this writing, the couple has still not returned to worship services as we had hoped, which has been disappointing. We remain in contact with them via telephone and visits. Please continue to pray for Nathalie and Ricardo and their children.

On the 11th of November, the Hendrixes and the Whites had quite a surprise. After worship on that Sunday, the four of us were hustled outside by a sister who wanted to take a picture of us before the potluck that was planned for that day. Once we were outside, another sister would not let us back in (!), so we knew something was up. When we were permitted back into the meeting room, it had been decorated (balloons, crepe paper, the works) and the whole group was standing there facing us. It was a "party" for Arlin's and my 60th birthdays (though I'm 61 now) and for the Whites' and Arlin's 30-plus years in French mission work. There were glowing speeches, songs by adults and children, there was a funny sketch, and we were given a nice gift from the congregation: seats at the opera! For the meal, we were placed at the head table — with place names and printed menus — and served very formally, with each course being announced officially, just like in a nice restaurant. We laughed, we sang, we cried. It was a great time. What wonderful brethren they are! I told them the following Sunday how deeply touched Pam and I were by their loving gesture, and how much a privilege it is for us to work for the Lord among them. Words cannot tell

Last weekend, we held the annual retreat for leaders and workers in French-speaking congregations in Western Europe. The meeting took place in a retreat center about an hour from Lyon. I did the communication work and Pam took care of the housing and financial arrangements. One of the congregations in Paris prepared the program for this year, on a theme from 2 Timothy 2.2: "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." Six brothers from Lyon attended, aside from Arlin and myself. That we have that many brothers taking responsibilities in the Lyon congregation is a sure sign of good growth. We had periods of Bible study and exhortation, discussions on various topics, and prayer. I presented the latest information in our current project of reprinting the French songbook. The fellowship with brethren from Paris, Lille, Marseilles and Tournus in France, and brethren from Lausanne and Geneva in Switzerland, was great. The singing was wonderful. Most of us stayed over Sunday morning to worship together. There were 35 people present for the weekend, which may not seem like very many because, well, it isn't. But the future of the Church in French-speaking Europe was in that meeting room during that weekend. The Lord is growing His Church here, brick by brick. And I'm convinced that, when the time is right, the numbers will explode. Pam and I may not see it, but we believe it will come. Some of us are laying foundation, others are doing walls, and the Lord will see that the roof is put on, when the time is right!

On that positive note, I will close, with our prayer that the Lord will grant you His greatest blessings, today!

Sincerely and gratefully,

Charles and Pam