

Charles and Pam White
Monday, June 30, 2008
Subject: White Newsletter June 2008

June 2008

Dear Ones in the Lord,

It is early morning as I write, and the dark sky is occasionally lit up by lightning in the northwest. My office window is open and I hear the thunder, but really far off. There is a light breeze, announcing the storm that is approaching. The birds, usually in full voice by now, are still silent, perhaps in anticipation of the winds and rain. It is just the kind of moment that I enjoy (though I wouldn't mind hearing the birds). The beauty of God's creation is sweeping through, and I know that I am not alone as I sit here in awe of His majesty.

June is a transition month for us. The men meet to plan the next cycle of activity, as most of the country will be on vacation during major parts of July and August. Things get really rolling again in September. So we do our planning in June and use the summer to prepare for the fall. This year I encouraged the men to do the planning meeting in two sessions, in order to have enough time for the necessary deliberations. We've been meeting on Sunday afternoon, and for the past two years several men have had to leave before we were really through. But, it was decided that, since the questionnaire form we usually give the brethren was shorter this time, we would have plenty of time to discuss it all and make the necessary decisions. But that didn't work. After 4 hours, several men had to leave (one lives two hours away) and we still weren't through. The rest of us stayed for about another half-hour to wrap up some items. The encouraging thing about all of this was that we had spent the majority of our time examining the spiritual condition of the congregation and making specific recommendations for growth and development in the future. There was a special emphasis on how to encourage our weak members and draw some straying ones back into the fold. We have a good group of nine men, aside from the two missionaries. They work well together and are forming a good foundation for future growth.

I might bring you up to date concerning the couple who had fallen away and whom we were trying to bring back. I told you in the March letter that we had essentially lost the husband but that the wife seemed to be renewing her ties with the Church. Unfortunately, that effort didn't last and she is now slipping away again. Pam and I have been to see her and very soon two brothers will be visiting her to encourage her get her priorities back on track. She is one who puts all of her family situations ahead of the Lord, and therefore seems never to have time for Him. We've all seen this happen, and perhaps some of us have been this way. It is truly sad to see someone fall into this deadly trap. Please do continue to pray for Nathalie and her family.

Another meeting held this month was that of our children's class teachers. That may sound like a non-event for you, but for Pam and me and the Hendrixes, who spent about 25 years teaching most of the classes and working out our own programs and materials, it is a real blessing to have a brother who has taken on the responsibility of planning the educational program of the congregation and meeting with the teachers twice yearly for evaluation. The sisters and brothers who teach our children are strong, dedicated Christians. At this meeting, one teacher said that, though he always prays for the children in his classes, he now also asks them to pray for him and for all their teachers, so that God will bless their learning of His will.

At the beginning of the month, the Robert McCready group from Harding University spent a few days with us. They distributed thousands of cards for Bible correspondence courses (we've had several responses) and presented a special afternoon program for the Church's children and their friends. Mostly, though, they simply encouraged us and brought us some fresh joy, some vital energy, some renewing of the spirit. It was great to have them with us.

We held a Visitors' Day one Sunday in the middle of the month, and several friends and neighbors of members attended. One man attended who had been invited at a bus stop by one of our members. We have several contacts of this kind at the moment, and we are working on influencing them for the Lord.

One of our own neighbors recently said to us: "I really admire your faith. When I look at how the world is going, I see the need to have faith in God." I immediately replied: "We would really be glad to talk to you about faith in God any time you'd like". She was a bit taken aback by that, and said quickly: "Oh, no, I don't think so. But I really admire your faith." I'm afraid that is a typical exchange with people who think faith is nice in others, but aren't interested enough in it to explore it for themselves. Perhaps you know some people like that. The world is full of them. What will they say to God on the day of judgment?

It looks like our not-quite-6-year-old car is in for some major repairs this month. The clutch is going out prematurely, even though I am not what the French would call a "nervous" driver. With gas prices at about \$9 a gallon and the dollar down by 40% against the euro, expensive car repairs are not exactly welcome right now (but, are they ever?).

Our Tess spent a week in Mexico this month, working on the foundations of a new Church building down there. She loves that work. Tami and family and Tia and family are doing OK. We look forward to seeing them all together in the fall (more on that in later letters).

Pam has had several doctor's visits this month for her knees and feet. And we are both still undergoing a treatment for respiratory problems. I've been to the ophthalmologist several times lately for a possible tear in my left retina, which

seems now to be confirming itself, so I'll likely be having laser surgery again soon. And the fibromyalgia continues. Sounds like we're falling apart, right? No, we're just "moving along" (which is, being interpreted: "aging") and dealing with the problems that brings. But we're hanging in there and doing pretty well, considering!

(The birds are singing now, as the storm seems to have passed us to the north ; the sun is rising on what looks like a very pleasant summer day.)

Many thanks and much love to all of you who have been so faithful with your support and prayers over the years. I hope you all have received the notes and the picture we sent out in June. We wanted to express our sincere appreciation to all of you, our partners in this work. Pam and I hope we can all remain partners for many years to come. May the Lord bless and guide you as you serve Him, today!

Sincerely,

Charles and Pam