

Charles and Pam White
July 2009

Dear loved ones,

The major news items in France this month concern the Mexican flu (but we mustn't call it that!), social unrest and the financial crisis. Concerning the first, there is a very real fear of a major pandemic in France during the fall. One must admit that this virus presents a considerable number of unknowns. And unknowns can be scary. Concerning the second, there has been, in recent months, a rapid radicalization of the social unrest in this country, to the extent that employees are sequestering their bosses in their offices (this is not new) and other workers are threatening to literally blow up their plants if their demands for compensation are not met (this is completely new). Concerning the third, I am thinking that it mainly affects a lower category of pocketbooks, as the stores are still jam-packed and people seem to be spending money as usual. These, for whatever they are worth, are my basic thoughts on the current situation here.

The major news in the White family is quite different. Yesterday, our Tia and Jeff welcomed their second child, Davis Andrew Brauer, into the world. He was born here in Lyon. Tia has been resting here since the beginning of May, and it would appear that this period of rest was beneficial, for not only did she go completely to term, but she even went a couple of days beyond term. And the baby seems to have profited from this restful time to put on some flesh; he weighed in at a hefty 9 pounds, 9 ounces. I won't bore you with typically exaggerated, glowing grandparental descriptions; suffice it to say that we are delighted. Tia and Jeff, with Ameleah and Davis, will stay in Lyon for a few more days before returning to their home and work with the Church in Padova, Italy.

One Sunday morning this month, we had the privilege of hearing a sermon presented by Jeff, who obviously speaks Italian fluently, but who has just begun working on learning French. So he spoke in English and I translated his excellent exhortation. One day, he'll preach here in French. However, I doubt if I will ever preach in Italian in Padova!

In July and August, we are studying the book of Galatians in our regular Tuesday evening sessions. As you know, its message is pretty direct and concerns the danger of "new" and different gospels. All of our men who usually teach are involved, as well as some who don't teach often. And we are hearing some excellent studies. I am more than ever convinced of the tremendous power of the Word to strike and to stun, to pierce and to penetrate (Heb. 4.12).

As you know from the past few letters, Pam and I have been preparing for some time in the States. Since there have been some new developments, here is the current plan, briefly outlined:

In part of August and part of September, we will spend a few days in Colorado Springs with Tess and Tami before going to New Orleans to help Pam's parents with some details concerning their care. The next newsletter will be sent from there. Then, I will return to Lyon while Pam returns to Colorado Springs. I will then return to Colorado Springs at the end of November and we will do our tri-annual reporting trip to our sponsoring and supporting Churches. Most of the details of that reporting trip have now been worked out. It was somewhat hectic, as we had originally

planned it for September / October. We still covet your prayers for our whole family as we work through a difficult time. Thanks much for remembering us all to the Lord.

During that reporting trip, we will need to be raising some new support. If any of you can recommend persons or congregations who might be willing to participate in the work in France, do communicate their information to me, if you will. I am preparing a 33rd - year video report that will describe our labors, as well as some printed information that can be passed on to anyone who would like to have a look at what is happening in the Church in Lyon.

Also during that trip, we are going to need to rest occasionally. I have mentioned before that I have advancing fibromyalgia, and that Pam's arthritic joints are not improving. We make quite a pair, I guess. So, as much as we will want to be available and full of energy during this moving about, we may have to retire and rest from time to time, just to keep going!

This month, two of our sisters participated in a week-long mission service session with the Church in Marseilles. Then, some children of members went to a Bible camp (also run by the Church in Marseilles), while some of their parents worked as teachers - counselors or kitchen and maintenance workers. It is good to see our people taking precious time out of their vacation to participate in these good works.

Several of our members are either gone or will soon be leaving for two or three weeks of vacation. Remember that the French get 5 weeks paid vacation for most jobs. They used to take their time off in one lump; but recently, they have begun taking it in portions, of which one long portion is generally taken during the summer months. So the work here has slowed down for the moment. But we are using the down time to work on projects and classes for the fall.

I've been sitting here wondering what else I can tell you about July, and I think I have come to the conclusion that this just about takes care of it! So, even is this is somewhat short — as next month's letter risks being, also — it comes with lots of love from both of us and with mountains of appreciation for what you have been doing for us for so long.

May the Lord we all serve continue to grant us His grace and peace, along with the wonderful privilege of serving Him!

Sincerely,

Charles and Pam