

David & Cherie Lyon
Chemin Lory-les-Hauts
F97490 Ste-Clotilde
Reunion Island (France)
Indian Ocean

The branch president or his wife and sometimes both also drive to these meetings. They are tremendous, in energy, the spirit, and everything the Church exemplifies at its best. They were sealed with their children in the Swiss temple during their vacation. He teaches in the teachers' college here, and is playing a leading role in the forthcoming presentation of "A Midsummer Night's Dream"; his wife is a partner in a pharmacy. They have a swimming pool, in which a man with a job was baptized last month. Another man baptized last summer with his daughter is a bricklayer by trade but currently unemployed; another man baptized last year with his wife and a daughter has left them to go to metropolitan France in search of a job to support them. There is, in addition, an elderly widow in the branch, who we bring to Church and to Relief Society meetings and often take to the meetings on Sunday afternoons on the other side of the island. She will be moving to metropolitan France in June to live there; she hopes to go to the Swiss Temple within the week after she arrives. All this, Tracy and Ida Rose, is to help you feel that you'd rather have your problems.

To balance the account of our work, we should add that a wonderful woman (a nurse who directs 34 nurses at a large clinic near us) comes to meetings with her two sons, 7 and 13. The older one wants to be baptized next month on his birthday; we hope the mother and other son will become members also. When we are disturbed by the lecturing of the young women in the poor fisherman's family by the elderly elder, we think how much more difficult the branch functioning would be without him. And we were able to persuade a police inspector to grant us temporary residence permits good for two months and we've received official written approval for long-term permits good for a year, which we will probably get next month after our birth certificates arrive. And I can now comprehend more of what is said in French, in Church, on the radio, and in daily conversation. It's coming, slowly, also, for Cherie.

We commend you both for the initiative of writing to some of our current colleagues in the field. On Mauretius, the Nortons are in a delicate situation where the Church isn't legally recognized, but some members, mostly female, have been baptized. Preston Gledhill went home a little early because of illness, and since it takes two elders to confirm, Don Norton called and asked if we could come over because they had a woman who wanted to be baptized. We managed to get our permits and the plane reservations and were somewhat disappointed when Don said over the phone that he had just learned the woman now wants to wait about six weeks. By then there will probably be another couple there, but we will make at least one trip to Mauretius sometime during our stay. The Nortons were here for a few days in January. Their visit included a tour of the island led by the couple who preceded us, and the next day by a cyclone which kept us indoors with hatches battened down for awhile. We had only a lot of rain and the need to boil water for a day or so; some parts of the islands lost their water supply entirely for several days, and a lot of flooding and washing out of roads occurred, but no loss of life. We're enjoying good health and surprised at how fast time seems to go by. We pray that you will find ways to the hearts of those who need you, and that we will have the same blessing. We look forward to hearing from you again.

Love, David and Cherie