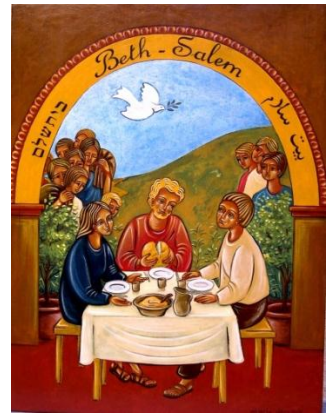




To each of you, whom we carry in our heart,
Hello!



We're again in front of this open letter that will give you some news of ours, share with you what improved our year. Are these news new?

Our daughter in law, during a chat, said us: "you're always moving away!"

This little sentence touched us and it drives this letter.

Are we moving, moved, movable? How? How is our retirement time occupied?

The list of our main activities didn't change these last years; these different activities don't need the same amount of time, energy, moving away from home.

- Our varied commitments next to **our children and family**; it's our first priority; visits, odd jobs, nursing the children, holidays... use a lot of our time; and there is also our larger family; we had, this year, an unforgettable family meeting.
- Our commitment next to **La Roche d'Or¹ community**; it's our spiritual family and our nourishing earth; we try to be present every time they need us.
- Our active part in **Servas France² peace committee**; several week-ends during the year, a lot of reflections, mail switches, computer work... and hosting visitors when they come.
- Our happiness to be members of an **APMA³ team** we meet three week-ends a year; when possible, we add some holidays to these trips.
- Our involving as **AIDES⁴** hosting family, but we hosted nobody this year by this mean.
- Our part in '**Chœur de Villages**' choir, which is our breath; our choir leader's exemplary patience, and the group conviviality help us to swing out life; Jazz, Gospel, Blues, French songs feed our rehearsals, and the concerts (too few according to us) give the unity of the group.
- **The house building work**: we now use our new bedroom, and four other bedrooms are free for hosting; the 2013 challenge is to fit out the large room (living-room, loge, and mezzanine) and the last bedroom. **Doing some gardening** takes a lot of time during spring and summer.

So, how can people feel we're always moving away? Some neighbours said us: "we didn't see your car, so we understood you were away".

Counting our away days, we find we were out of our home one third of our year... We feel it enormous! But... half of this time was for the family!

Taking stock of this situation, we measure the meaning of this feeling of never being at home... but nevertheless we could not shy away from any of these moving, and some are already scheduled for 2013...

We take it into account, and say to ourselves: "as long as we'll be able to move like that, our children we'll be happy, they'll be able to rely on us; after... it'll be another story!"

However, it's true that we desire to stay at home, building our home. It's going on, but not as fast as we hope. It's obvious: **"we never are at home!"**

About what movements are we speaking?

There are physicals movements, and we just spoke about them; almost an half of there are reserved for our children and their families.

There are also inner movements; we just lived one, big... that goes on helping us to make new things at home and inside of us.

Going on in the house building, we are now able to better delimit our needs.

We had, in our garage, a vast number of objects and furniture that "would be useful!"

We just achieved to sort and tidy it, and all that is not useful was dispatched in four directions:

- La Roche d'Or community, for the future second hand market and the new house in "Fontanilles",
- Our children, according to their needs,
- The "Secours Catholique", an association that give things to poor people,
- The bin.

¹ <http://rochedor.fr/site/>

² <http://www.servas-france.org/>

³ <http://www.pingouins.com/>

⁴ <http://www.aides.org/>

What a gift!

Now, our hands and hearts are less full and free and opened to receive... something new.

We built a few more, a few better, our couple identity, our life "together". The vacuum we made is an open door for the future, for all that will happen. We know a little better what we want for our home, and selected all that had to stay in it. It's wonderful: we feel free in front of the objects that had, a day, some importance, but are not what we need or want now. Our life is changing, and all the objects relating too... All's moving!

What a happiness to let ourselves be moved, stripped, emptied, filled...

Yes, we are "moving"!

Through all of that, we feel growing and changing; we adapt to the events that happen, as they happen; we simply occupy our place, trying to always stay free.

Our personal barometer exists, and we put it to "permanent fine weather".

We are lucky, being healthy, and maintain, as well as possible, our little pains; our moral is good, we're happy and awake each morning blessing the Lord for the new day that begins and the luck we have.

We're changing and thank you to welcome and accompany us is that, as you can.

Our children carry on in their own sweet way.

Lydie, suing for a divorce, is discovering her own life! It's very important, and we're very close to her. Her life is changing and the difficulties also... She becomes a standing, proud, free lady. Her children live, fitted to their scale, their parents' separation.

Sara and Benoist are always in Ségoufielle. They are much occupied with their job and would like to have more time for their children. For now, they do as well as they can.

Ghislain and Céline are well, and their children grow in a good way. Cléa is now walking, and become a pretty young girl.

Our grandchildren' cheapness grows as much as their wisdom. It's a good sign...

Yes, this letter is short for news, compared to the previous ones, but she's a mirror of the simplicity, the discovery of the main things that fill out our life.



Hope you lived very happy end of year feasts, and wish you a very happy new year.

And don't forget that it's always an immense happiness for us to open our home. So certainly don't hesitate to please us, to please you: come by us, for a meal, some days... or more!

Friendly yours.

Odile and Jean-Michel

