



Cork and Ruth Albright

Missionaries to the Netherlands

April - May 2005

Ruth's Notes from the Heart

School is finally over (hurrah!) and now begins the real language challenge of every day situations! Getting a diploma for the Dutch language is like getting my driver's license - 'now go put all that practice to use and get better at it as the days go by'. Thank you so much for praying for me over the years for my schooling and all the tests I have taken. My final speaking test was very interesting. We had a three-page, single spaced, typed written story about the Titanic given to us two weeks in advance of the test. Our project for the final was to retell the story, in Dutch. Sounds simple, right? - well it isn't! I asked my teacher if I could draw pictures to help me stay focused while I retold the story. She said that would be fine. I worked and worked on my story a week before the test. I thought I would be the only one in the room telling the story to Tanja, my teacher, but she had other plans. She had three of us come in at the same time. She gave each of us a page to retell. I was asked to do the second page. I had my pictures with me and proceeded to tell the story. When I was done, the other two ladies spontaneously clapped their approval. I was so happy to get such a response. I will be receiving my results in a few more days. I want to always keep in mind the response from Jesus I long to hear when I get to heaven, "Well done thy good and faithful servant!"

Family throb: We are all enjoying the start to a busy summer. Angele will be arriving in a few days to spend three weeks here with us. She also has a couple of weddings to attend this summer. She is working on her fall employment, waiting for the Lord's leading as to what direction she should follow. Griz and Amy are enjoying a church they have been visiting in Wilmington, NC. Their girls feel right at home in the children's programs. Amos will not be doing his internship this summer. Matter of fact, he is presently following in the summer program at Baptist Bible College, Clarks Summit, continuing to work on his Masters in Bible. We are very pleased with his determination to stay focused until this portion of his training is over. He is planning on doing his internship next summer.

Ministry throb: I enjoy so very much the ministry I have with our children at church. When I told the story of the Titanic to my teacher, using the pictures I had made, I mentioned to her that I tell Bible stories to our children at church each Sunday. She made the comment that the children must enjoy Sunday School. I smiled and nodded my head. This past month the ladies from our church in Valkenburg had an opportunity to enjoy the morning together at a two hour seminar. Our times together are so precious . . . Especially when we see and enjoy each other outside our own church environment. We had a very nice time together learning about our spiritual gifts.

Praise throb: Praise the Lord for your faithful prayers these past five years of my language study. I have always prayed for new ideas and fun things to present in class when assignments were given. God has helped me with a variety of different ways to present my work to my teachers. I thank Him for every opportunity I have had to speak about Him. Also, God has been so good in helping us financially. We would have had to plan a trip back to the States in September if our finances had not improved. Because of your giving we can put that trip off for at least a year. Thank you for your love

for our Lord and for our family!

Prayer throb: There will be no more prayer requests concerning my language classes, AMEN to that! But please pray that I will be able to share my testimony effectively when there is opportunity. And thank you so much for your prayers on behalf of our children. God is so good! There are many decisions yet to be made in each of their lives. We are so thankful that they choose to serve Him in everything they do! We are anxious to see who the Lord will be sending to take over the work in Valkenburg. These are very exciting days for our church!

Dutch throb: Psalm 107:1 - "O GIVE thanks unto the LORD for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever." Psalmen 107:1 - "Looft de HERE, want Hij is goed, want zijn goedertierenheid is tot in eeuwigheid."

Cork's Ministry News

God is not in a hurry. He is never behind in carrying out His plans — He never has to catch up, He never works too quickly — not with this world, not with the nations and not with us. God is always on time, never late, never wrong and always working for our good. So, ". . . he that believeth shall not make haste" (Isaiah 28:16).

Perhaps the single biggest cultural difference that we have experienced on the mission field of the Netherlands concerns not making haste. Europeans in general live a slower pace of life — southern Europeans more so than northern Europeans. The Dutch accomplish everything that Americans accomplish in a day of life but do it at a slower pace, enjoying the day more. The Dutch are not driven by a success mentality or sport achievement mentality yet they are known for their financial successes (they are the number one foreign investors in the United States) and sport achievements (the Ajax soccer team from Amsterdam is world renown).

When we first arrived in the Netherlands we were unaware that our pace of living and ministry was very much American. We would make plans, challenge folks and encourage participation in ministry only to discover that we were the only ones interested and on time. We would witness sharing Christ and expect the person to make an immediate choice. We would try to do business for the church or for our family only to discover that we were not taken seriously (we were often made to wait longer than others just so that this lesson might be learned).

The single most revealing and challenging discovery was that it was the Albright family who needed to slow down to their pace of life and not expect the Dutch to catch up to our rush through life and ministry. Until we changed, the Dutch just let us do it all and watched from a distance. They were behind us alright, so far behind us that we could not even see them. Decelerating, we discovered that the Dutch enjoyed being around us more than before and they were more willing to give themselves to our Lord's work for His glory.

	<p>If in the Bible there's a command, we're going to obey it; if there's an example, we're going to follow it; if there's neither command nor example, we're praying about it.</p>
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