



Cork and Ruth Albright

Missionaries to the Netherlands

June - July 2005

Ruth's Notes from the Heart

I received one of the nicest compliments ever in the month of June. One of the young mothers in our church in Valkenburg invited me out to celebrate the fact that I had finished my language studies. She has two of the cutest little boys, Jaap (2) and Tom (1). Her invitation was, "Would you like to go out for ice cream with the boys and me? We would like to celebrate the completion of your language studies. This will be nothing big, but we will have fun with the boys." How could I refuse! She picked me up and drove me to her mother's house, which is the perfect place to park if you are going into the city of Maastricht, Holland. When I got out of the car there were four other people there waiting for us with two beautiful bouquets of flowers. Needless to say, I thought something was going on. We had a "Ladies Afternoon Out" with three children and six women. Angele was also able to be with us. We enjoyed the beautiful city of Maastricht and had ice cream. It was wonderful! I was so humbled by the fact that they would take the time and energy to have a special time out with me. Later that month, after a day spent with the ladies from the Baptist Church in Weert, I was again humbled by a beautiful gesture of appreciation. They gave me a gel-candle thanking me for spending a day out with them. It takes time to have close relationships with Dutch people. I am so thankful that the Lord has given me opportunities throughout these seven years to be involved in a ministry to three Dutch churches . . . praying for and praying with these godly women . . . building stronger relationships with them. God is so good!

Family throb: We really enjoyed having Angele home with us for three weeks in June. Each time I am together with the children is always a "growing closer together" time for us. She is a very sweet, godly young lady and we are excited that she has given God full control of her life. She will be returning to teach fourth grade at the same school as last year. She only has a few more weeks before she starts her second year of teaching. Griz and Amy enjoy the church they have been visiting so much that they are not visitors anymore. They have joined the church. It won't be long before they are involved in different ministries there. How exciting! Amos and Christina are happy with where the Lord has them and what He has them doing. Amos still preaches at a small church in a nearby town. He has found a new job that will be perfect for his Master's work schedule. Christina continues to work full-time at Baptist Bible College, Clark Summit in the library. Amos has the challenge of Hebrew this coming year. He did all right in Greek but is a little nervous about Hebrew; something which we all can understand.

Ministry throb: I was so surprised by the attendance at our church a few Sundays ago. When our people are on vacation, we are really down in attendance. Normally, this is well compensated by the many tourists coming to our church who vacation locally. For the first time that I can remember, that Sunday we had no visitors and only fifteen people from our church who were not gone on vacation. It was such a sweet service! The Lord gives special little ways of putting His "stamp of approval" on what we are doing for Him. I will remember this service for a long time; not because of the lack of people but because of the abundance of God's love!

Praise throb: Praise the Lord for faithful people in the church who are there because of their love for our Lord. We continue to see much spiritual growth in Valkenburg and we thank God for His faithfulness and promises. It is such a privilege to serve such a wonderful Lord.

Prayer throb: Please pray for Angele as she looks for an apartment before school starts. Also, please pray for Amos as he tackles Hebrew this semester. My, what a challenge! We are the host and hostess this year at our annual European Missionary Retreat to be held in Belgium. More than 80 will be attending Pastor Bruce and Laurie Humbert of the Sauk Trail Baptist Temple, Richton Park, Illinois are excited and well prepared to challenge us around the theme of Matthew 6:33 — "Kingdom Bound". Please pray for us Monday, August 8 through Friday, August 12 — five short days to impact missionary lives for the glory of God.

Dutch throb: This is the chorus of "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" "Groot is Uw trouw, o Heer, Groot is Uw trouw, o Heer, iedere morgen aan mij weer betoond. Al wat ik nodig had hebt Gij gegeven. Groot is Uw trouw, o Heer, aan mij betoond." AMEN!

Cork's Ministry News

The month of July marks our 29th year of full-time ministry in the Netherlands. Reflecting on how our Lord has used us, I can truly say that one of the most enjoyable experiences in the life of a missionary is to have a part in seeing our Lord begin something from nothing. The privilege of seeing and participating in the process of new creations, whether that be in a person's life, or in the establishing of a church or in the founding of a children's camp or Bible College is both challenging and exciting. As far as I am concerned, the wonderful process of seeing God establish Christians, churches, camps and colleges is the most fulfilling aspect of what we do as missionaries.

We have endeavored and continue to endeavor to give ourselves for those things that have eternal value . . . those things that God is pleased with . . . those things He will bless. Our supporting churches have all these years prayed and given to make this ministry possible and your investment has not been in vain. Together we are the instruments that God is using to save souls and establish churches in the Netherlands. Our first church to the American military in the city of Soest is now no more due to the draw down of military personnel in the Netherlands. This church was a lighthouse to many for more than 25 years. Our second church in the city of Roermond, pastored by Miel de Rechter, continues a more than 20 year ministry of winning souls in the province of Limburg. Our third church in the city of Weert, pastored by Michiel Hollander, has been following the example of Roermond for almost 15 years now. Our fourth church in the city of Valkenburg, where I am currently the pastor, has proven to be a more difficult ministry than the previous three churches. We are growing so slowly, too slowly. We are fighting battles for which we have no experience; battles we did not fight in the previous three churches. And we are more in need of your prayers than ever before.

After preparations of more than a year we started in January of this year the International Baptist College of Europe in Thieusies, Belgium. Together with colleague missionaries to France, Belgium and Germany, along with pastors to the American military and using curriculum from Louisiana Baptist University, we are privileged to see and participate in the establishing of a Bible College at Bachelors level to train Europeans to win souls and established churches in Europe.

Twenty-nine years given for those things that have eternal value . . . I can think of no better way to spend my life! Winning souls and establishing churches is truly the most fulfilling aspect of what we do as missionaries.

 <p>Netherlands Cork Ruth Albright</p>	<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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