



Dr. Cork and Ruth Albright

Missionaries to the Netherlands

December 2007 – January 2008

Ruth's Notes from the Heart

I love looking back on the year 2007 knowing what I do today about the year. Last year was just fantastic with the many surprises in our lives - a trip to Hawaii, a trip to the Holy Land and an honor given to us at a banquet we attended in December. January of last year we had no idea that the Lord had these blessings in store for us. We are eager to see what blessings our Lord has for us this year.

Family throb: What a blessing it was to plan a trip to the annual Ladies' Retreat (Jan. 31- Feb. 2) with our daughter Angele again this year. It is great to have her here close by; to do things together and to get to know her better. After spending five weeks in the Fall of 2007 with Amos and family and getting to know them better, I look forward to spending the weekend with Angele. Amos and Christina are battling flu, pneumonia, and colds with Caleb and Sarah. We are hoping they are on the healing side now. Amy and girls are getting excited about Daddy coming home from Iraq in March. What a long year it has been without Griz. And . . . Cork and I are looking forward to ten years of marriage in August.

Ministry throb: The new work in Opglabbeek continues to grow. The first Bible Study of the year was attended by eight regulars and a visitor. This is a blessing to us because one of the single girls was married in January and has left us. We are praying that we will grow to twenty before Fall and then begin holding Sunday services in a rented facility.

Praise throb: We are hearing such good reports about the Baptist church in Valkenburg. They are receiving visitors from the town of Valkenburg itself. It is a blessing to have local visitors attend and not just the usual visitors of vacationing Christians. If these visiting families decide to make this their church home, it would be such a blessing! This has already been very encouraging to the saints there in Valkenburg.

Prayer throb: Please continue to pray for Griz. Even though we are very excited that he should be coming home soon his year tour in Iraq is not over yet. Also, please continue to pray for the work that has been started here in our home in Opglabbeek. It is so exciting to see God working through us; we are already experiencing His blessings on this new work.

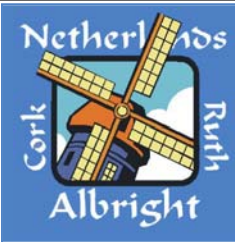
Dutch throb: Our Thursday night Bible Studies are in Ephesians. I have decided to challenge myself to memorize one of the verses in Dutch about blessings: Ephesians 1:3 "Gezegend zij de God en Vader van onze Here Jezus Christus, die ons met allerlei geestelijke zegen in de hemelse gewesten gezegend heeft in Christus." Efeziërs 1:3

Cork's Ministry News

The International Baptist College Europe officially completed the third year of her Bachelors Program in December. All of the English speaking students from Germany had a very difficult year. Because of sickness some classes were missed and in one case a surgery caused a student three months of class work. This was evident as all but one student failed two of the five courses. Students from France and Belgium are continuing their course studies and will finish their third year in August 2008. Courses offered for this year are: General Missions, Anthropology/Harmartiology, Esther, Homiletics and Psychology. A Dutch student from our third Baptist church in Holland will begin school with us this year. As we continue our ministry of church planting in Holland we ask you to pray with us that the IBCE will be used by God to impact the European continent.

The process of turning over our fourth Baptist church to the Dutch Christians in Valkenburg was completed last September. We continue to meet with the church leadership on a regular basis. We are glad to report that the Valkenburg church continues to grow in number. As in the past, we have again discovered that when our ministry of "laying the foundation" is completed it's time to move on to start a new church, so the church we have turned over can grow further. Our ministry motto is: "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." I am following Paul's example as stated in I Corinthians 3:10 "According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon."

Perhaps you are already aware that of the twenty most expensive cities in the world twelve are right here in Europe. Right now four hours of driving costs us \$100; Ruth recently needed multi-focal glasses at \$737.94 and she even reused her old frames. As I have mentioned in my last newsletter inflation and the Dollar-Euro exchange rate have brought us financially to a very difficult point in our ministry. Dr. Jon Konnerup, Mission Director of the BBFI, wrote of this in the January 2008 issue of the Tribune: "How far does your dollar go?" He mentioned that special offerings are being raised to help offset the fall of Dollar value overseas—like those that you raised for us three years ago. He continued by saying that these are only a temporary fix because the problem will still exist after those special offerings are gone—which is now our case. His solution: "to keep from being driven off his/her field by exchange rates, the average missionary needs a 25 percent increase in support". In our case we need a 35 percent increase. There is no room to reduce our monthly expenses further. We again need your help. We are not allowed to take a second job on our field to help out. We have only you to turn to. We have a vibrant ministry going with the prospects of a fifth new church plant within reach. We just do not have the funds to do the work of the ministry.

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