



Missionaries to the Netherlands

Dr. Cork and Ruth Albright

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December 2008 – January 2009

Ruth's Notes from the Heart

It is traditional for me to look back on the entire year and thank God for all He has done for us through family, ministry and friends. This year has only begun and I have felt God's abundant provisions already and it is just January! We are so thankful that we serve such a great God!

Family throb: Angele still has the teaching position she had at the close of last year. She is not sure how long she is going to be able to hold this position but we thank the Lord for providing her a class of children she has been able to call her own. She has taught these children so much and they have also taught her a lot in return! Amos and Christina are busy getting settled into their new home! They have found a very nice three bedroom house close to the Charity Baptist Church near Roanoke, Virginia where Amos is pastoring. After much prayer and consideration, Amy and Griz have decided to let Julie go ahead and start first grade. She is loving it and doing very well. The girls had their first "snow-day" in January. They were dismissed from "home-schooling" so they could go outside before the snow stopped falling.

Ministry throb: January was the beginning of our fifth year with the International Baptist College Europe, Thieusies, Belgium. Cork continues to do a great job as "administrator"! One responsibility of his is to find men to fill the teaching positions each year. We are excited for the men who have agreed to fill a teaching position and are especially excited for the students as they will have some great men of God to present their classes to them. Also, we continue to have Bible study and prayer meetings in our home again this year. The group here from Opglabbeek is excited to see what the Lord will do through all of us this coming year! One of the wives called us to express how excited she is because her husband is growing in the Lord, wanting to become more involved with the group and looks forward to attending each week. We know God will send us more men and pray they will be just as interested.

Praise throb: God continues to provide in every area of our lives. We are looking forward to what He will do through us in 2009! We are so thankful for your prayers and financial support that keeps us on the field doing what only we can do in this location. We know we are a light to all we come in contact with and we know too that you are depending on us to share the Gospel. What a great God we serve!

Prayer throb: Please pray for the Baptist Church in Valkenburg. Cork mentioned this church in his newsletter. The situation there lays heavy on our hearts. We want to be a blessing and at the same time encourage them to depend completely on the Lord during this time of disappointment. Angele's teaching position is a sure thing until the middle of February. She is praying for a permanent position with the class she has and will know soon what the decision will be about her staying where she is at the present time. She thoroughly enjoys teaching and knows God will give her His best for her life. This year will be the eighth year I will have been involved with the Euro-Wide Ladies Retreat and I am still asking you for prayer as I present yet another workshop to these dear missionary and military

ladies. It is such a blessing to know that many of you will be praying for me on the 6th of February. Thank you!

Dutch throb: Philippians 1:6 - "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:" - Filippenzen 1:6 - "Hiervan toch ben ik ten volle overtuigd, dat Hij, die in u een goed werk is begonnen, dit ten einde toe zal voortzetten, tot de dag van Christus Jezus."

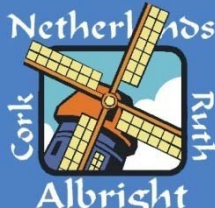
Cork's Ministry News

We are praying for more laborers. "Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2). Although the need for more laborers has always been true it has never been more real to us than now. Worldwide missionaries are being forced out of their ministries. In the case of the BBFI twenty-six families have permanently left their respective fields; six of those families are from Europe. Many missionaries are now in the States on furlough working on raising more financial support because of these financially "trying times".

The net result on the mission field of Europe is that the laborers are indeed few, just as our Lord said. For us personally this means that we are encountering difficulty in finding teachers for the International Baptist College Europe as we begin our fifth year. Our student body is growing but qualified teachers are increasingly hard to find. Part of this problem stems from the long driving time needed for most to reach the location of our school. We are working on finding a location that is more central to the student body as well as the teachers. But the biggest reason is that the laborers are not here. The work of the ministry is growing but there are not enough laborers to do the ministry.

The need for laborers has also manifested itself in our church planting ministry in the Netherlands. The pastor of our forth church in Valkenburg told me in January that he is leaving the ministry after a year and a half. As so often happens, no warning was given, leaving us unprepared for his announcement. We are in need of a laborer for the church in Valkenburg. Where will we find him? From my limited human viewpoint I have no hope of finding a pastor. Yet the church in Valkenburg is determined to continue their ministry. My heart is sorrowful with this development. I want to return to help them. Together with others I will be helping them in a limited way with preaching and teaching but I will not return to pastor. I am following the biblical pattern for church planting that Paul established in the Book of Acts with the exception that I have no Timothy or Titus to send back to Valkenburg. To leave the new work in Opglabbeek because of the need of laborers in Valkenburg is not the right move for us as missionaries.

My earnest prayer is that our Lord would "send forth labourers into His harvest." As you continue to make it possible for us to labor on our field through your prayers and financial support please pray with us for more laborers; godly men and women who will present their "bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God," which is our reasonable service (Romans 12:1).

 <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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