



Dr. Cork and Ruth Albright

Missionaries to the Netherlands

June - July 2006

Ruth's Notes from the Heart

I feel that this newsletter will be all about reporting on the way God has answered so many of your prayers for us and for our family. Just last night in our prayer time together, Cork and I thanked the Lord for His interest and involvement in our children's and grandchildren's lives. We love Him very much and are very pleased that we can rest assured that all is good with our loved ones because He is in control. WHAT A COMFORT!

Family throb: The prayer requests for our children for the past few months are being answered as I write this prayer letter. Our granddaughter, Rachael, did so well on her first day of school on July 20. She was a little apprehensive at first but that did not last for long. She is loving school. Amos and Christina are traveling down to Florida for their internship by way of Virginia and North Carolina to see family and friends. Christina and their unborn baby are doing well. Angele is enjoying a three week visit with her friend Hilbert from Belgium before she comes here to Europe for three months. And Cork and I are doing great getting ready to celebrate our 8th wedding anniversary!

Ministry throb: While we were in Missouri in May, one of the ladies in the church in Valkenburg taught my Sunday School class for me. When I returned she asked if she can help me by teaching a few times each month. After her vacation time, we are planning on putting her on the Sunday School schedule to teach twice a month. What a blessing! Also, I have challenged myself to teach a new Sunday School song in Dutch each month without any help from a CD. Some of the songs are easy but some are a real challenge. What is Sunday School without Sunday School songs? It is a challenge I am enjoying each month.

Praise throb: Just experiencing the Lord's presence and seeing His will in our children's lives and in the ministry in Valkenburg keeps us praising Him all day long! I cannot imagine living a day without Him.

Prayer throb: I have a very special prayer request to share for Amy and Griz. Griz has received word that he will be full time in the Navy for 21 months beginning October 16. He is now involved with training until September 11. Griz received his orders and they have learned that from Oct 16 - March 15 he will be at various military bases in the U.S receiving more training. From March 15, until they decide he is done, (they can only keep him a total of 24 months as a reservist being mobilized) he will be in Iraq. This news still makes my heart skip a few beats. Pray for the girls as they adjust to Daddy being gone. Pray for Amy and the absence of her husband and, of course, pray for Griz's safety and that he will be able to find a good Christian friend while in Iraq. Again, we thank the Lord we can rest in His plans for our children's lives.

Dutch throb: This is the very simple song I have challenge myself to teach my Sunday School class this month - "Jezus houdt van kleine kind'ren" - "Jezus houdt van kind'ren, ook van mij, mij, mij, (2x) Kinderen, ook mij—maakt Hij altijd blij. Jezus houdt van kind'ren, ook van mij, mij, mij." (Second verse) - "Jezus houdt van kind'ren zoals jij, jij, jij. (2x) Kinderen zoals jij—maakt Hij altijd blij. Jezus houdt van kind'ren zoals jij, jij, jij."

Cork's Ministry News

Have you ever wondered why American missionaries have such a difficult time of winning souls and establishing churches in Europe while it seems like other continents are much more fruitful for our Lord? Are you traveling to Europe to visit your missionaries or coming our way perhaps for a well deserved vacation? Be forewarned . . . Europeans have already formed an opinion about Americans based on their behavior as tourists. Perhaps the following article published in a national Belgian newspaper will be helpful in understanding European mentality: **"Don't be so noisy!"** Americans traveling in Europe on vacation are leaving behind a less than praiseworthy reputation. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Belgium wants to help change this situation. A brochure is now available with ten tips to help Americans behave better by being less noisy and arrogant as they travel throughout Europe.

1. Think as much of yourself as you want, but behave as if you are a size smaller. Boasting is impolite.
2. Feel free to talk about yourself and the States, but ask questions about the country you are visiting, allowing the people you are speaking with to talk about themselves and their country.
3. Feel free to correct your children in public but don't try to play the school teacher with foreigners you meet while on vacation . . . just converse with them in a normal way.
4. Take your time and enjoy life. Americans talk fast, eat fast and move fast . . . most other cultures have a slower lifestyle.
5. Speak quietly and slowly. Speaking fast with a loud voice suggests aggressive behavior discouraging further conversation.
6. Make an effort to learn a few words in the local language.
7. If you speak about politics, it is better not to get involved in a discussion not even if anti-American sentiments are expressed.
8. Your religion is your religion. Other nationalities follow other religions . . . some not having any religion at all. Never discuss this subject in public.
9. Be aware of the customs of the host country. Search for areas of contact with the local culture. Few people in Europe know anything about the World Series or Super Bowl. Soccer is the favorite sport.
10. Dress in a modest way. Showy and flamboyant t-shirts and sports shoes are often viewed as a display of disrespect."

Europeans are not better or worse than Americans, they are just different. They see life differently making decisions about what is important that are often viewed by Americans as inferior. For example, Europeans in general see no need to rush through life working themselves to death in the pursuit of more possessions. An American would never think of taking four weeks off for vacation whereas Europeans feel they have a right to those four weeks. They do not need American money, American products or American know-how to make it in life. They are not waiting for Americans to come and show them the way . . . they have a history and culture that is centuries older. They will not be told what to do

This makes it very difficult for missionaries to minister in Europe. While other continents welcome the American Dollar, the American Way and The American Lifestyle, Europeans have a natural aversion to everything American, including the Gospel that missionaries bring with them. In our case becoming Dutch was the only way to reach the Dutch. Occasionally when teaching Biblical principles and practice we are still told by Dutch Christians: "You do that or say that because you are Americans."

	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.
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