



Dr. Cork and Ruth Albright

Missionaries to the Netherlands

June – July 2009

Ruth's Notes from the Heart

Reading Cork's newsletter you most likely feel our concern for his father's condition yet we are very excited about the birth of Angele and Hilbert's first child in November. I had mentioned to Cork the last few times we attended funerals that I had noticed babies crying during the service. This reminds us of the verse in Ecclesiastes 3:2a—"A time to be born, and a time to die...". With his dad always on our mind these days, we are happy to know there will soon be the birth of a grandchild. Cork and I strive to live a life serving and loving the Lord so that our children and grandchildren will never have to wonder where we will spend eternity. We pray they will also strive to live a life serving and loving our Lord too!

Family throb: Angele is so radiant . . . just like Amy and Christina were when they were expecting their children. Of course, Cork is tickled that he can see Angele in this condition. His baby is going to have a baby! He is still in disbelief. Amos is still praying for a day job. His current night job does not give him enough family time but he is seeing the blessing that the night job brings as it is difficult for many to find a job at this time. We are finding it hard to believe that Rachael and Julie, Amy's daughters, have talked their mom into starting school already. Rachael is in third grade and Julie continues her studies in first grade. They still take time for summer fun though!

Ministry throb: We enjoyed attending and participating in a special service at the Baptist Church in Weert. Ger van den Boomen was ordained in June as assistant pastor. This special service was well attended and included many guests from area churches as well. What an exciting day!

Praise throb: We praise God for every opportunity He gives us to be a blessing! Cork has had the opportunity this summer to preach in each of the churches God has used him to start. What a blessing!

Prayer throb: Please pray for Angele and Hilbert as they continue to prepare for their baby. And please continue to pray for Amos for a day job in place of his current night job.

Dutch throb: On July 28 Cork turned 60 years old. He received this greeting on a birthday card from one of our friends in Holland. Can you guess what this 21 letter word means? "VANHARTEGEFELICITEERD"—heart felt congratulations!



Cork's Ministry News

Mom called to say that Dad's health has taken a turn for the worse. He has been in a nursing home since January. His weight loss has been a real concern. We now know that the reason for this is lung and bone cancer. It has been decided not to treat him because he is too weak. Mom told me a hospice has been assigned to him to administer morphine when needed. It appears he doesn't have much longer to live.

I last saw my dad in Springfield, Missouri when I received my honorary doctorate from BBC in May 2006. I traveled to Altus, Oklahoma to be with him and my mom and brother in July. This will probably be the last time I will see my dad alive. I continue to pray that he will accept Jesus as his Lord and Savior making it possible for us both to spend eternity together in Heaven.


The one week trip was a fast one for me but I believe it was worth it. It was good to see Dad and witness to him. I did so several times. If for nothing else than to say goodbye to him this trip was worth it. I am grateful to be able to honor my parents.

I had one good talk with my dad. I was able to visit him alone one evening before I went to church at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Altus, Oklahoma. I again witnessed to him. This time he responded with more than just one word answers. I reminded him of how he let me know everything would be OK when he sent me off to Holland thirty-nine years ago to serve in the US Air Force for four years. I said just like he wanted the best for me, I wanted the best for him. I want him to know he is going to heaven and everything will be alright. He cried. Alzheimer's causes him to completely close down when he's unable to answer. He lapses into silence, totally forgetting the course of the conversation. He has asked Jesus to come into his heart and has done that several times. He also said he always asks Jesus to forgive his sins. But when I asked if he is afraid to die he said yes. I would like better biblical answers but this was all it was to be. He won't remember our conversation. His short term memory is gone; fortunately he still remembers the past. I was happy to discover that he remembered me. Hopefully my witness from the last few years on the phone has caused him to invite Jesus into his heart.

My mom told me there will be no funeral services for Dad or for her. They will be cremated . . . their ashes to be scattered to the wind at the discretion of the funeral home. I have nothing to say in the matter . . . their wishes have been documented and notarized. I will not be returning to Altus when my dad dies.

Please continue to pray for my dad. I visited him twice a day. There was only the one good talk. He was alert and I was able to share the gospel with him. His answers were not always biblical but taking into consideration that he said he has asked Jesus to forgive his sins and he knows he is going to heaven encourages me. Although he also said he is afraid to die . . . most likely because he has no assurance.

I hope to see my dad (79) in heaven. My mom (84) is living unassisted in her own apartment in Altus. I have asked Tabernacle Baptist Church to visit her and my brother in the near future.

	<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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