



Cork and Ruth Albright

Missionaries to the Netherlands

February - March 2006

Ruth's Notes from the Heart

There's no place like home! I thoroughly enjoyed my visit with Amy's family. The reason for being there, the birth of Melanie Carmyn, was great but there is still no place like home. During my last Sunday at Grace Baptist Church, Wilmington, NC the Sunday School teacher asked me when I was going to be home again. I said very excitedly, "Tuesday and I cannot wait!" She said, "No, I meant when are you going to be back in the States again?" She thought it was such a blessing that I truly considered my mission field, Holland. as my home. Home is where your heart is! I truly missed not being involved here in Holland for a month.

Family throb: It was great getting to know Amy and Angele a little better during the time we were able to see each other. When Amy asked Cork if I could come help her with the new baby she said that since Cork has had me all to himself now for about eight years she thought it would be a good idea that she gets me for at least one month. Now how can you refuse a request like that one? A few days before I went to be with Amy, Amos and Christina visited the church in Florida where they will be ministering this summer. They are so excited with their summer plans. We love seeing God's hand in each of our children's lives.

Ministry throb: It was strange for me to be in America praying for the works in Holland. I am so thankful for the faithfulness of the pastors of the Dutch churches. It is rewarding to come back to a ministry where I can be confident that they have remained faithful in Sunday and mid-week services. I am anxious to get back to work in the church in Valkenburg. I was able to speak to a group of children a couple of times at Amy and Griz's church but it is just not the same as when you are in your own ministry. What a joy it is to be back!

Praise throb: We praise the Lord for our new granddaughter, Melanie. She is going to fit fine in the family with her two other sisters. Rachael and Julie love her so much and want to be with her all the time. I could see while I was there that they will be a big help to mom as Melanie grows older. Also we want to continue to praise the Lord for the sale of Amos and Christina's house in Pennsylvania. What a blessing that has been!

Prayer throb: Thank you so much for praying for me as I spent a month in North Carolina with my family. Angele is anxious to see what the Lord has in store for her this summer. She would love to come back to Europe and teach here. She has been working on her Dutch résumé. The résumé was harder to translate than she thought it would be so she asked her dad and her friend from Belgium to help her. She is ready to send it to a few places she is interested in. Pray that she will hear something from these places before Summer begins for her the first of June.

Dutch throb: I love this verse and wanted to share it with you in Dutch. Psalm 118:24 — "Dit is de dag die de HERE gemaakt heeft; laten wij juichen en ons daarover verheugen."

Cork's Ministry News

Why risk the blessings of God on your life. Why risk happiness? Faithfulness is still worth it! After more than two years of working with one of our faithful men in Valkenburg, I prayerfully believe that our Lord has saved his marriage. It's very sad to live in a world where love and marriage have been replaced by apathy and adultery. There is nothing wrong with committing to one person, and respecting them and the vows shared in front of family, friends and God. People are cheating more and more these days (including Christians in our ministry in Holland); adultery is celebrated on TV, in the movies, in magazines and the newspaper. The worst thing is that people don't even feel guilty anymore. People cheat, then rationalize their behavior to defend their cheating – and actually believe their own lies. Let's face it, nothing is perfect. No marriage is perfect. What we don't see now is what will be later. Devastation will come and lives will be destroyed. The truth always comes out. It's a biblical fact of life.

"When you are about to cheat," I said to him, "stop and think about what it will be like in five or ten years from now when your wife can't stand the sight of you, your children won't talk to you and you are alone because your lover decided to trade you in for a different model." (This very thing happened to one of the ladies in our church in Valkenburg). Why would anyone risk the happiness, lives and health of the people they love for a cheap thrill? Why disappoint God, yourself and others? Why do it? Our partner loves us. They care for us when we are sick. They are the ones we see when we look at our children's eyes or mouth or nose. They are the ones who stay up late at night with us and worry by our side over bills, mortgage and tuition. They are truly our best friends.

Of course, it's normal to have ups and downs in any relationship, even with your best friend. It's normal for the excitement to wane after a few years. But instead of investing energy in the lying, sneaking around and the eventual "getting caught" that goes along with having an adulterous relationship, let's put that energy into our marriage; create new excitement, start a new spark.

It's almost to funny for words . . . we spend all of our twenties looking for love and that perfect someone to spend the rest of our lives with. We are filled with ambition, excitement and hope for the future. We take our vows, we hear the first cries of a new baby, get excited at first words and first steps, shed a tear at thoughtful gifts on birthdays and anniversaries and dream of our first home . . . yet some are so ready, so willing, to give that all up when things get a little tough or too enticing. Please, don't throw it all away . . .

	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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