



## Dr. Cork and Ruth Albright

Missionaries to the Netherlands

February – March 2008

### Ruth's Notes from the Heart

I believe that Cork and I have entered the "Fall Season" of our lives. We are able to look back and thank our Lord for all that He has done with and for us. We know we still have much to look forward to. With "official" retirement age just several years away the Dutch in our churches are asking us if we will be leaving Europe anytime soon. Our reply, "No way! - unless of course God leads us in that direction." With Dollar purchasing power falling each and every month we might be tempted to think that maybe God is leading us to leave because of Euro exchange rates . . . but we know our GOD IS FAITHFUL! So we are planning to stay right here and remain faithful too. How can we go wrong with this decision! Some of our Dutch friends have commented that if they were hit with a 35% pay cut they would be looking for another job. It is exciting to see how God provides in so many different ways each month to keep us on the field. We serve a great and faithful God.

**Family throb:** What a blessing it was to take a trip to the annual European Ladies' Retreat (Jan. 31- Feb. 2) with our daughter Angele again this year. The best part of the trip was the drive up and back. We had no problem finding things to talk about. She is also enjoying God's blessings in her life with her wonderful husband, Hilbert and a substitute teaching job that will provide her with work until the end of the school year. Amy and girls are immensely enjoying their husband/dad being home now. They are having fun getting "reacquainted". Griz arrived home on Melanie's second birthday. Wow, what a present! Amos and Christina are still battling colds, flu's and ear infections with their children. Illinois weather is completely different from the Florida weather they were used to enjoying.

**Ministry throb:** The new work in Opglabbeek continues to grow. One of the couples from the Bible study in our home is attending an additional Bible study with us each week. This is a marvelous way to build relationships with the people in Opglabbeek. Through this Bible study we are able to meet others who might be interested in our work in the future. God has continued to give wisdom and open doors for us. We are praying for twenty faithful adults so we can begin Sunday services.

**Praise throb:** On Easter Sunday we experienced an unexpected blessing. We attended church in Weert, Holland. God used Cork to begin this work in the early 90's. During the service one teenager gave testimony that he was saved the week before Easter. Oh, how we rejoiced. After his testimony we were introduced to an older lady who was also saved the same week. And again, we rejoiced. The teenager and older lady are related to each other - grandson and grandmother! It was such a blessing hearing these testimonies. It always delights our hearts to hear such great things like these taking place in the churches we have established here in Holland.

**Prayer throb:** Please pray for the health of two of our grandchildren, Caleb and Sarah. They have been sick for a very long time. It has been a hard Fall and Winter in Amos and Christina's house. We just received word that Christina's dad has pancreatic cancer. She and the kids have flown to Virginia. We are praying for the family and waiting for any news of his situation. Also, please continue to pray for the work that has been started here in our home in Opglabbeek.

**Dutch throb:** In May 2008 the church in Roermond, the second church established in Holland by Cork, will be celebrating their 25th anniversary with Pastor Miel de Rechter. I have heard Miel many times giving thanks in prayer to God for YOU our supporting churches. He thanks God for the finances you provide and the prayers you bring before God on our behalf giving us the opportunity to work here in Europe. The leaders of our churches here realize if it were not for the love and care of our supporting churches we would not have the opportunity to stay in this country. We also give thanks to God for YOU! AMEN!!!!

## Cork's Ministry News

Every missionary needs great supporting churches like you to reach this generation for Christ. And, of course, every missionary needs a great sending church as well!! With a very grateful heart, I recently wrote the following to Pastor Bruce Humbert and our sending church Sauk Trail Baptist Temple of Richton Park, Illinois. It is my desire that our sending church would be recognized and honored for their invaluable and indispensable part in our ministry without forgetting how all of our supporting churches have prayerfully given to make what we do and have done in the Netherlands possible.

"Our Lord continues to impress on my heart again and again the wonderful part you and STBT have played in our ministry and lives. Even more than your commitment to worldwide missions and our ministry has been the expression of your caring ways for my family. Reflecting on my life has brought home to me once again how grateful I am for being saved and for being sent out as a missionary from STBT to the Netherlands. For these 32 years you have stood by my side in the up and down times that come to all who live for Christ. Your godly example, counsel and encouragement continue to challenge me to be good and do well. You have given so freely of your time to help this missionary do his best for Christ. As always, so now in all things, I desire to show an attitude of gratitude. I want you to know how much I value the gift of your friendship and faith.

We as the Albright family have had some difficult valleys in our lives and you were there to help us to look again to the mountain tops as we continued on our journey in service to our Lord. Teri had many surgeries during her lifetime . . . one of them took place in Chicago where you and STBT could be an encouragement to her. She so enjoyed having you as her pastor and the Vanderbilt's as friends who opened their home to her while she recovered from hip surgery.

We remember how you took each of our three children one summer into your hearts and homes to help prepare them for their transition from living in the Netherlands to living in America and going to Bible College. Amos stayed with the Barkers and Amy and Angele stayed with you. Our children are serving the Lord today because you care. You most likely feel that you have done nothing extraordinary . . . yet to me and our family we count it a privilege to call you our pastor.

I remember with gratefulness how you responded to Teri's passing; how you helped us to adjust to our new life without her. Her memorial service at STBT will always be a testimony of STBT's care and concern for us and for all her families and missionaries. At that time you invited me to come to STBT on staff if that would be the Lord's will for my life. I consider your invitation to be a reflection of the depth of your desire to support this missionary in difficult days.

You came to Florida with your family to stand with me when Ruth and I married in August 1998; a deed that helped us to continue our ministry in the Netherlands.

You have honored us many times throughout the years; most recently in 2006 with a trip to Hawaii. Throughout our ministry you have financially stood by us, supporting us monthly and occasionally with special offerings of substantial amounts! You came to Europe to minister to missionaries . . . a time I will never forget. You impressed me and my parents when you unexpectedly showed up at our Dr. Cork dinner for family and friends in Springfield, Missouri on graduation day at Baptist Bible College and Graduate School.

I want you to know that I am grateful. I am honored to be sent by STBT to the mission field of the Netherlands and to know that such a wonderful church stands with us in our attempts to reach this generation for Christ. Because of you four independent New Testament Baptist churches and one Baptist College have been established . . . we are now working on our fifth church plant. Without you these churches and this college would not even exist. For this I will be ever grateful to you and our Lord.

Pastor, you have been a friend and help to me and my family these 32 years . . . you have given us your time; I can say no more than thank you from the bottom of my heart. Please know how grateful I am."

	<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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