



Missionaries to the Netherlands

Dr. Cork and Ruth Albright

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February – March 2009

Ruth's Notes from the Heart

Spring has finally sprung! We turned our clocks ahead a month later than you did in America. It is good to see so much daylight again! Unfortunately, we are not seeing so much sun with that daylight but we are thankful that God's Son lives in our hearts!

Family throb: Angele is still in the teaching position she had at the close of 2008. It is such a blessing to her as she has fallen in love with her class. The word now is that she will have the class until after the Easter break. As substitute she has now been working with these children longer than the regular teacher. Amos and Christina are busy getting telephone and internet connections to their new home. There may be a possibility that there will be no internet connection because of their location. They are keeping in contact with us using a computer at their local library. We are thankful that we can still keep in contact through email. Griz and Amy's girls are enjoying two weeks vacation from "homeschooling" for Spring Break. Melanie received a sandbox equipped with all the "sand toys" necessary to have a great time. She is spending many hours outside with her sisters making "sand cakes and sand pies"! We are so glad as "oma and opa" to have been able to give the necessary finances for such a great third birthday gift to Melanie.

Ministry throb: With Easter right around the corner, my neighbor will be hearing the entire death, burial and resurrection story. She still agrees to help me with my pronunciation of the Dutch words I use for my Sunday School lessons. I continually thank the Lord for this avenue of witness to her. We were able to help our town one Saturday pick up trash in Opglabbeek. There were seven of us representing about half of the Bible Study/Prayer group we host in our home each week. We hope you enjoy our picture. We're all decked out ready to walk several streets in Opglabbeek in search of trash. It is always fun to be together as a group in a different setting other than Bible studies and prayer meetings. We really enjoyed getting to know these Christian friends better.



Praise throb: We can see God working in the church in Valkenburg. I am so thankful that they allow me to teach the Sunday School lesson once a month. Preparing with my neighbor keeps me in contact with her. The town of Valkenburg is a tourist town. And Valkenburg certainly needs the Light that these fine Christian people there provide. We praise God that He sees fit to have this ministry continue.

Prayer throb: Please continue to pray for the Baptist church in Valkenburg. Cork mentioned this church in his newsletter again this month. We witness the answer to prayers each month and thank you for praying. Thank you also for praying for our family. It is encouraging to know that literally hundreds of people are bringing our names before the throne of God every day..

Dutch throb: Are you familiar with the children's song: "Stop and let me tell you, what the Lord has done for me. (repeat) He forgave my sin and He made me whole. He washed my heart and He cleansed my soul. Stop and let me tell you what the Lord has done for me." In Dutch - "Stop laat mij u zeggen, wat de Here

deed voor mij. (repeat) Hij vergaf mijn zonden en maakt' mij rein. Hij wast' mijn hart en maakt' mij Zijn. Stop laat mij u zeggen, wat de Here deed voor mij."


Cork's Ministry News

We are praying for laborers to fight the good fight of faith in the Netherlands! "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses" (I Timothy 6:12). Rediscovering the age old gift of comradeship in the fight of faith will help us to commit ourselves to know each other's needs and to motivate each other as we strive together. And we will experience why Paul called it a good fight. Very few things in this life are sweeter than like-minded Christians committing themselves to the greatest cause in the world.

The fight of faith is the struggle to hold fast the profession of our hope without wavering and to keep on loving each other in Christ. The Christian life of faith and love cannot be lived successfully in isolation. God intends for us to exhort each other to live our lives in godliness (Hebrews 10:23-25). We are finding that Christians who could be potential laborers and leaders in our ministry have little deep, serious, and passionate concern for godliness in their lives. Divorce is devastating the pool of potential leadership for our churches. Belgium, Sweden and the Czech Republic are at the top of the list in Europe where one out of every two couples will divorce before they are 50 years old; in the Netherlands (Holland) this number is one out of every three. There is today, by and large, a cavalier, superficial attitude toward the on-going, daily intensity of personal faith because many do not believe that the fight of faith can only be good if the laborer has a life in godliness.

God said in Ephesians 2:10 that "we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." "Good works" are sometimes really hard work and walking in them means that Christians are to invest their time, energy, talents and future in the good fight of faith to reach this lost and dying generation for Christ. Even though it may be tempting to walk away when things are spiritually tough in a marriage or in life, quitting is not a biblical option. As a young Christian I was often told that it is always too soon to quit. My deceased wife Teri frequently told all who felt sorry for her disability that "we may not be able to control our circumstances but we can certainly do something about our attitudes".

I am so thankful that the former pastor of the Baptist Church in Valkenburg still wants me to be involved in his life. I am unsure as to how I can help him because he no longer comes to church with his family of four who continue to be faithful. He is looking for a new church. Even though he continues to follow a course that undermines the future of the Baptist Church in Valkenburg we are meeting together to find ways to help him continue the good fight of faith in some other capacity.

	<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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