



Dr. Cork and Ruth Albright

Missionaries to the Netherlands

April – May 2008

Ruth's Notes from the Heart

Valley Forge Baptist Church, one of our supporting churches, gave us a beautiful calendar for 2008. The theme for May was, "God's Supply is Greater" using Philippians 4:19 as the verse for the month. What an encouragement this verse continues to be! God's supply is greater than what we can imagine or even ask for in every area of our lives.

Family throb: God's supplying on behalf of our family has been such a blessing! Amos and Christina were in the process of moving from Westfair Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Illinois to Virginia. We wanted so much to be there to help them take care of the grandchildren. We prayed for them each day because we knew the stress had to be increasing as Caleb was still sick and Christina herself has not been feeling well . . . remembering too that her father had passed away just last month. I prayed that God would give them someone to help. One of the ladies of the church told Christina that God had laid it on her heart to make herself available to them in any way needed. Praise the Lord! Candace, took care of the children whenever Amos and Christina couldn't. What an answer to prayer as God supplied the help needed! God is also supplying a summer job for Angele. This is a great blessing to any teacher. Summer employment is always very hard to find. And we continue to pray that God will supply that perfect job for Griz. He would very much like to get a better paying job.

Ministry throb: God has been faithful in supplying two of His churches in the Netherlands with new converts. How exciting! As Cork has mentioned, people have been added to the churches in Roermond and Weert through salvation. We are thrilled by the desire God has placed in these churches to experience growth through people getting saved. Both churches have put extra emphasizes on salvation and the Lord has supplied them with the materials, time and personnel to carry out a great program. We are so thankful for the continued desire that each of these churches has to serve the Lord for now and in the future. We are also anxious to see how the Lord will continue to supply the needs for our new work in Opglabbeek as it continues to grow.

Praise throb: I want to praise the Lord because He continues to supply our financial needs so that we can remain here in Europe. Sometimes I am disappointed that we do not have the finances needed to move ahead a little faster with our new work in Opglabbeek. The Mission Office of the Baptist Bible Fellowship has advised us to stay on the field and do what God wants us to do at this time — so we continue to have weekly Bible Studies and Prayer Meetings with the people God has given to us as well as preach in the churches we have already started along with administering the International Baptist College Europe. I am so glad that we listened to that advice. If we would have gone back to the States in an effort to raise extra financial support we would have missed the baptism service that we were honored to attend last month; we would have missed the very special 25 year anniversary service for the pastor of the church in Roermond and we would have missed the times we have been able to minister at the International Baptist College Europe not forgetting the eleven souls that have also been saved. We are looking forward to attending in the near future a baptism service for believers in Roermond. If God had not supplied our financial needs for the past couple of years we would have had to return to America to raise more support and we would have missed out on all these blessings. God is so faithful! Thank you for allowing Him to use you!

Prayer throb: Please continue to pray for our work here. Since the vacation months of July and August are near many of the folks who attend the Bible Studies and Prayer Meetings already have plans to be gone for awhile . . . a three to four week vacation is the norm here. As in the past, Cork has been asked to preach at several churches where the preachers also go on vacation. I love hearing him preach. He is my favorite preacher!

Dutch throb: Last month I was able to attend a genuine Dutch family birthday celebration and be part of a real Dutch family. Since Angele has married Hilbert we are now officially part of a Dutch family. Henk, Hilbert's dad, celebrated his 59th birthday. It was a very nice celebration and not so much different from the ones I remember in America. I must admit though, the "party" consists of a lot of sitting around and talking. This gave us the perfect opportunity to get to know the family better. New to me is the custom of when a gift is given no card is expected. This was a fun experience for me and especially for Henk.

Cork's Ministry News

Gasoline is \$9.46 a gallon. Inflation is above 5%. The Forbes Tax Misery Index places Holland as #2 and Belgium as #3 with France as #1 as the top three who impose the harshest taxes out of sixty-six countries in the world (The United States is #49.) Food prices have risen 13% and are now nowhere higher in Europe than in Belgium. These are just a few of the recent headlines from articles in our national newspapers. If our future ministry here were dependent on what the economy is doing we would certainly have reason for doubt and fear. It is obvious that our purchasing power has now declined 40% when just looking at Dollar-Euro exchange rates. Adding the newspaper headlines to the equation reveals our financial situation to be substantially worse. We have done everything thinkable to reduce our expenses . . . we have for example curtailed the use of our car to an absolute minimum, riding our bicycles whenever possible which we prefer not to do when it is raining. We have limited our phone usage to an absolute minimum using Skype and e-mail whenever possible. Of course, this limits our ministry outreach considerably. We have a potential group of twenty to begin the new church in Opglabbeek but no funds to make this possible. We do not want to enter into a rental contract for a building at this time with our financial future so unstable. We will continue to meet in our home.

I do not want to paint a picture of doom and gloom because this is certainly not the case. We are fortunate to have no real needs other than food and housing at this time. All our children are grown and raising families of their own allowing us to live on a very minimum. Ruth was given the privilege to buy new clothing last October by Westfair Baptist Church, Pastor Larry Warren of Jacksonville, Illinois when she stayed with Amos and Christina during the birth of our new grandbaby Sarah. Cork is rejoicing that our gas, water, electricity and insurance bills are being met. We do not want to return to the States at this time to work on raising more monthly support as this would certainly mean the loss of the new work in Opglabbeek.

The real story here is that God continues to supply all our need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19). Community Baptist Church, Pastor Wayne Golson of Bradenton, Florida, Fellowship Baptist Church, Pastor Scott Watson of Bluff City, Tennessee and Heritage Baptist Church, Pastor Gary Graft of Sembach, Germany have all given special offerings in May helping us to stay another few months on the field. Financially we're still alive and kicking! A small monthly raise from our supporting churches would make a real difference in our ministry at this time.

The best of this story is that we have never seen so many saved in one three month period. Pastor Michiel Hollander in Weert is rejoicing over the four who have accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior. He recently had the privilege to baptize two of them . . . a grandmother and grandson. Pastor Miel de Rechter in Roermond is rejoicing over the seven who have accepted Christ as their Savior. He is waiting for three more to be saved so he can baptize ten souls. This has happened only once before when in 1983 we organized the church in Roermond.

Our faith in our God has not been shaken but strengthened. Our trust in our Lord has not been weakened but confirmed. Our future is not undetermined but rests firmly in the hands of our Creator. We shall not be moved to deny in the dark what we have accepted by faith in the Light.



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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