



Dr. Cork and Ruth Albright

Missionaries to the Netherlands

April – May 2009

Ruth's Notes from the Heart

It is amazing how the birth of a baby and the "birth" of a church can be compared to each other. As we continue to work with our group of Christians here in Opglabbeek we cannot help but think of how a mother-to-be gets everything ready for the arrival of her new baby. We are anticipating the "birth" of a new Baptist Church here in Opglabbeek and continue to prepare for that day when we will have our first Sunday service. We continue to prepare for this "birth" by praying and studying God's Word together and by letting these fine Christian believers know what is involved in holding Sunday services. Things such as: a place to hold the service, hymn books, chairs, pulpit, Sunday School materials and many of the things you are also using in your own church services each week. We do not want to commit to Sunday services without being totally prepared just as a couple should not commit to having a baby until they are as prepared as they can be.

Family throb: You are probably wondering why I am comparing our ministry to the birth of a baby. Well.....after prayerfully waiting for two years Angele is going to give birth to her first baby in November. This will be our sixth grandchild. It is exciting to hear of all the preparations being done for the arrival of their first child. Hilbert and Angele are committed to being as prepared as possible for that special day. She is still teaching "her" class as a substitute teacher and will be able to finish the school year with this group of second graders. God has been so good in providing this position for her to fill. Amos and Christina have finally installed a fast internet connection. After almost a year of waiting we were able to see their children (Caleb, 2 and Sarah,1) via Skype. Amos is praying for a day job. His current night job does not give him enough family time. He is enjoying being the pastor of Charity Baptist Church and is seeing the first fruits of his labor. Attendance has increased since his arrival as pastor and young families are responding to his ministry. Griz and Amy's girls are finished with homeschooling for this year. They are already enjoying their summer break. The Nida family was recently seen on their local TV station attending Memorial Day celebrations in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Ministry throb: We are already making plans to introduce the "Pillar Course" this Fall to our weekly Bible study group here in Opglabbeek. As you have read in Cork's newsletter, the churches in Roermond and Weert have had great results with this program. This course will help prepare Opglabbeek as we take the necessary steps to hold Sunday services. Please pray with us as we continue to move forward with this fine group of Christians.

Praise throb: We are always encouraged when we can attend a baptismal service at one of the churches God has used Cork to start. Baptismal services are always an encouragement to our churches because this step of obedience and faith reveals openly the desire to follow Christ. It is my privilege to watch how God is continuing to use Cork in the lives of the men who pastor these churches. They respect and love him so much. We praise God for every opportunity He gives us to be a blessing!

Prayer throb: Please pray for Angele and Hilbert as they continue to prepare for their baby. Also, please pray for us as we continue to prepare for our "baby" (a Baptist church in Opglabbeek). There is still so much to be done before the time of this birth. And we know Amos would appreciate prayer on his behalf for a day job in place of his current night job.

Dutch throb: These are the National holidays the Dutch people celebrate: Nieuwjaarsdag—New Years Day, Pasen—Easter, Paasmaandag—Easter Monday, Hemelvaart—Resurrection Day, Eerste Pinksterdag—First Pentecost Day, Pinkstermaandag, Pentecost Monday, Koninginnedag—Queen’s birthday, Kerstmis—Christmas and Tweede Kerstdag—Second Christmas Day.

Cork’s Ministry News


Because of your faithful prayers and financial support we are enjoying the best years of our ministry. Yes, like you, we too are experiencing the effects of the world-wide financial crisis. Our financial ability to do ministry is certainly hampered and our financial future remains uncertain. Yet in the first five months of this year thirteen souls have accepted our Lord as their Savior. In May two who were saved last year were baptized in the Baptist Church of Weert. We are truly enjoying the fruits of our thirty-three years of labor in the Netherlands. This harvest of souls can be attributed to our Lord’s working through the Pillar Course that has been taught for the last two years in our churches. Each session of this course in the Dutch language begins with a fifteen minute DVD where the Gospel is presented in an original way followed by a thirty minute lesson and later by questions and answers. Church members invite their unsaved friends to attend the small group gatherings. A meal is sometimes offered at the beginning of the session or used as the special event after the nine sessions are completed.

Out of the many methods for evangelism we have tried through the years the Pillar Course has produced the most fruit. We have done and continue to do tract distribution, friendship evangelism, fair grounds evangelism, Christmas Evangelism and market place evangelism as opportunities present themselves to communicate the Gospel to our generation. No one approach is the perfect method but all are useful at varying times as we endeavor to reach our lost and dying world for Christ. We are always looking for better ways to obey our Lord’s command “as my Father has sent me, even so send I you” (John 20:21).

We certainly want to do the best we can to fulfill our Lord’s command to win souls and make disciples. Our lives and ministry are characterized by the following: “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.” This has certainly helped us to stay focused on what is really important to God.

Because of our desire to be biblical in all that we do a recent article in our national newspaper caught our attention: “Message of the church becomes diluted by mass events”. The University of Bremen in Germany has completed a scientific study called “Media—Event Religion”. According to the media scientists where the church is following the world in “religious marketing” the message of the church is being diluted. By staging large events the church does attract large crowds and enjoys short-term media attention but the message of the church is being further diluted. The scientists conclude by saying that although the church attracts large crowds for “the event” interest in the church remains minimal and superficial.

Without realizing it university scientists are confirming what we already know. It has never been more important to reach our generation for Christ than now! We are praying that our Lord would send more labors into His harvest (Luke 10:2).

 <p>Netherlands Cork Ruth Albright</p>	<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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