



## Dr. Cork and Ruth Albright

Missionaries to the Netherlands

October – November 2006

### Ruth's Notes from the Heart

So many changes have come to our lives with the changing of the leaves this year . . . life changing changes. We are so excited because it is evident that God is the one doing the changing. He is in full control and we are so thankful that He makes it possible for us to choose to follow Him in every area of our lives. Some of these changes are very emotional and some are very physical experiences. As you read this newsletter, think of the changes in your own life. Are they from God? Do we sometimes get impatient and start off without Him instead of allowing Him to take the time to make the "perfect" changes only He can make? How wonderful it is that we have such a great God to fully trust in to show us how to get the best possible out of this life.

**Family throb:** There have been big changes in each of our children's lives. Amos and Christina now have precious baby Caleb at home with them. I'm sure you know the changes babies bring to a family. Griz, Amy's husband, was able to be home for Thanksgiving. What a delight for his family. He will continue his Navy training through March 2007 with the probability of not returning home until this training is completely done. And Angele will be coming to live with us until her wedding day. It is a change for her but I think a bigger change for Amy since this will mean when Angele leaves Amy will be the only adult at home with her three daughters. Amy has mentioned that Angele has been a real blessing with Griz being away. We are looking forward to Angele coming here for awhile which also means change for us . . . we will no longer be an empty nest couple for the next several months.

**Ministry throb:** Heidrun, the lady who taught Sunday School for the first time in September, loved the experience. She has requested to teach three weeks of Sunday School in December. All of her lessons are planned out; she really wants to spend more time with the children. Heidrun is doing a marvelous job and the children love her.

**Praise throb:** God is really so good! He has been providing in big and little ways in our lives. I will be teaching English Literature starting in January 2007 at the International Baptist College Europe (IBCE). I have always felt any teacher teaching English on a college level must have a passion for English. Well...I do not have a passion for English and wasn't so excited about the task ahead until God provide different sources of materials for me to use throughout my teaching year. I could write a book about what He has provide and how He has helped change my attitude about teaching English Literature. Praise Him!

**Prayer throb:** Of course, Griz's military training and absence from his family will always be a burden on our hearts. He continues training at various military bases; from March 15, 2007 onward (they can only keep him a total of 24 months as a reservist being mobilized) he will be in Iraq. I think when he leaves for Iraq the most difficult time will begin for Amy. God is so good. Amy told me that time has been passing quickly and that so many people in her church have been such a blessing to her and the girls. Also, please pray for me as I prepare for English Literature and also prepare a workshop entitled, "Authority and Your Life" for the teen girls who will be attending our annual Ladies' Retreat February 2-4, 2007.

**Dutch throb:** I would like to share with you a familiar song from your Sunday School class that is sung only around Christmas time here. The tune is "Jesus Bids Me Shine". "Jezus zegt, dat Hij hier van ons

verwacht", (Jesus said that He expects from us here.) dat wij zijn als kaarsjes, brandend in de nacht," (that we are as candles burning in the night) "En Hij wenst, dat ieder tot Zijn ere schijn, (He desires that everyone through Him shines) Jij in jouw klein hoekje en ik in't mijn." (You in your small corner and I in mine).

***Gezegende Kerstdagen en een Voorspedig Nieuwjaar!***  
(Blessed Christmas Days and a Prosperous New Year!)

## **Cork's Ministry News**

### *Europe and the Netherlands are in great spiritual need. (Part 2)*

The Dutch do not understand why God plays such a large part in American politics. When President Bush said in 2004: "What I do is a mission from God" the Dutch wanted to know if God is his reserve Vice President or perhaps wants to be president Himself. Europeans think of God as old fashioned and those who believe in Him as naïve. How can the President of the United States allow his leadership and presidency to be influenced by God they want to know. Because God means so little to them they have a difficult time of believing that He can mean so much to others.

In the Netherlands and most other western European countries it is mandatory that children attend public schools. Parents will be punished by law if they refuse to send their children to school. Home schooling is not an option. That about two million American families would keep their children home for 'religious' reasons and take upon themselves the responsibility to teach their children the ABC's is as unthinkable to the Dutch as including God in politics.

Europeans consider their system of prosperity to be the very best in the world. Their government provides cradle to grave care for every citizen. Americans depend upon the benevolence of others and God. From the Dutch viewpoint Americans need the church; the American dream would collapse without it. The Dutch believe they have need of nothing. They are worried though that Americans being only 5% of the world population use 25% of the world's energy, eat 25% of all meat and use 28% of all paper. Americans consume 185 gallons of water per day in comparison to the Dutch who consume only 32 gallons per day.

The Dutch and much of Western Europe are convinced that Americans believe that they will go to heaven if they live right and go to church. In the rich western European countries they believe no such thing. They do not care that the Bible has a different message. As a result European churches are empty and American churches are full. We need missionaries with energy and vision to tell them what the Bible says about salvation and heaven; missionaries who will come to Europe and stay a lifetime. Our desire as missionaries is to enlarge our church planting, beyond the four churches we have started and turned over to the Dutch, through our college ministries to impact an ever needy Europe.

	<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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