



## Dr. Cork and Ruth Albright

Missionaries to the Netherlands

October - November 2007

### Ruth's Notes from the Heart

I have truly been spoiled again! I will never forget my visit to Jacksonville, Illinois and Westfair Baptist Church where Amos is ministering as youth director. I have "seen Jesus" in so many of the people there. They were such a blessing to me during my five week visit. I could write a book telling all that they did for me and my family while we experienced an addition to our family - Sarah Kathleen Albright! She is beautiful! Looks just like her mother Christina!

**Family throb:** I arrived in Illinois on Monday, October 15 and had only four days to get to know the family before Sarah arrived. It was a great time getting acquainted with Amos, Christina and Caleb. This time together helped each of us to grow in love with each other. Sarah arrived the following Friday and received such a sweet welcome into the family. Caleb loves having a baby sister. He has adjusted well to the sweet addition. It was great being able to talk to Amy and the other three grandchildren as well on almost a daily basis. Calling is free for some of our family members. What a blessing!

**Ministry throb:** I couldn't wait to hear what Cork was doing in my absence. He continued to have the Bible Studies and Prayer Meetings in our home each week in Opglabbeek. Cork did a very good job with being hospitable. He even said he enjoyed getting the refreshments ready along with the study for the evening. When I again attended the Prayer Meeting after I got back, everyone remarked on how well he had done in my absence. I thank the Lord for a husband who can handle any situation that might come up in our lives.

**Praise throb:** My visit at Westfair Baptist Church for the five weeks I was in Jacksonville was such a blessing. The saints from that church were such a help to me. They made it possible for me to buy some very nice winter clothes. With the Dollar losing value almost daily in Europe it was a good idea to purchase what I needed while I was in the States. Two Sunday School classes took up a surprise offering for me and instructed me to go shopping to make some personal purchases. It was like a shopping spree for me. I was able to buy new clothes at very reasonable prices. These clothes will last me for many years. God was so good to use these precious people to provide me with some well needed articles. He always meets our needs in special and unexpected ways!

**Prayer throb:** Please continue to pray for Amos and Christina through the months it will take to get Sarah on a good sleeping schedule. She still had her days and nights mixed up when I left. Also, please continue to pray for Amy and the girls as they go through the holidays without Griz who is serving our country in Iraq. It is very hard when our loved ones are so far from home during the holidays.

**Dutch throb:** After only three weeks in Jacksonville I was saying to myself, "I want to go HOME." It is a thrill to me to realize that I consider Belgium my home. America is no longer home to me. Home truly is where your ministry is (and your husband too!). I missed being involved with Cork. I found

myself thinking, "I wonder what Cork is doing" over and over again. It is great to be back and to plan on spending the rest of our lives right here where God wants us to be.

Gezegende Kerstdagen and een Voorspoedig Nieuwjaar!  
(A blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year!)

## Cork's Ministry News

Together with our BBQ contacts we began weekly mid-week Bible studies and prayer meetings in Opglabbeek the first week in October. So far ten adults have been attending faithfully. We desire to start Sunday services when about twenty are coming regularly.

Ruth and I had some thoughts about taking a furlough to report to you on our ministry before establishing a new church . . . but our Lord intervened with His plans. We had no idea that we would again be involved in a new church plant so quickly. We are praying this new situation will develop into a Baptist Church with national leadership just like our other churches. From past experience we know that this is not a given. Including the four churches already established, we have tried to start churches in two other cities that did not get beyond the Bible study stage. After a couple of years of mid-week Bible studies in each location it was evident that they didn't want to become a church. We know our God has called us to start churches in Holland, not to just lead a Bible study group, so we moved on.

We are praying about the materials we will use to introduce ourselves to the city of Opglabbeek, the location of our new work. We know first impressions count. Together with those attending our mid-week services we are exploring ideas for a Gospel tract to use door to door. How does this sound for a tract title: "You only live twice?" The tract will include the usual excuses and reasons people give as their answer for not accepting Jesus as their personal Savior.

I know that you are aware of an on-going problem for all missionaries but especially for missionaries in Europe. We continue to lose support each month due to the Dollar—Euro exchange rate. Our house payment, grocery bills, gas, water and electric bills continue to increase due to a normal 2-3% inflation as the value of the Dollar has decreased 10% in purchasing power this year alone. Gasoline is currently \$8.35 a gallon. We are having difficulty meeting our monthly obligations. Money we will need to move from Bible studies in our home to Sunday services in a rented building is not available. We know that exchange rates fluctuate, so we have been waiting and hoping for an improvement. It has not come. Three years ago we were in this same predicament and God wonderfully supplied all our need through you. We have no one else to turn to. We are not allowed to work a second job on the field and returning to the States will cause us to lose the gains we have made in our Opglabbeek ministry. We come to you for help in this difficult time—not forgetting that you as well experience difficult days too.

We look forward to remembering that "Jesus is the Reason for this Season!" We enjoy celebrating Christmas with our Dutch friends in the churches that have been established in Holland through your faithful prayer and financial support. Ruth and I wish each of you a Christ honoring Christmas this year!

	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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