



**September 2016**

*'This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven..." Matthew 6:9-10*

As we look back on this last year in Belgium and as we look forward to the year ahead, the Lord's prayer gives us a great perspective on what really matters in life and ministry. It has been a tumultuous year in French-speaking Europe, with the Paris attacks and the Brussels lockdown in November of last year and then the tragic attacks in Brussels on the 22 March this year. Brussels has been rocked by the news of the Brexit and the recent attacks in France add to the feeling of uncertainty in the country. How should we pray? Jesus teaches us to pray for God's priorities in his world, for God's name to be honoured and glorified here in Belgium and for his kingdom to come - through conversions and, ultimately, when Jesus returns. And that God's will would be done in wholehearted, joyful obedience to his commands. We're so grateful to God for the time you've spent this last year praying for those things for us and for Belgium and we hope you'll find more fuel for praying to our heavenly Father in what follows.



**A Student Lunch last year**

**Woluwe Church**

**Encouragements and points for praise from this last year**

<b>Student Ministry</b>	<b>Women's and children's work</b>	<b>Other encouragements</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Around 7-8 regular students.</li> <li>- Bible studies (1 Thess &amp; Exodus).</li> <li>- Mini-talks on various doctrines.</li> <li>- Monthly student lunches.</li> <li>- 1 to 1 bible studies.</li> <li>- 1 student leaving for France, having properly understood grace this year.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New Friday afternoon women's bible study this year.</li> <li>- Weekly mums' and toddlers' group ('Petits Lapins') with a short gospel talk.</li> <li>- Three evangelistic craft evenings held for women.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some non-Christians coming to 'foot et foi' (footy and faith) evenings.</li> <li>- The relaunching of a men's' breakfast.</li> <li>- Two of Lizzie's mum friends coming to a dialogue supper.</li> </ul>

**Challenges going forward and points for prayer**

<b>Student work</b>	<b>Women's and Children's work</b>	<b>Other challenges</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We have very few native Belgian students who come to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attendance at the Friday bible study has been up and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Woluwe church building is quite full on a Sunday morning</li> </ul>

<p>the church – the majority are from France who have come over to study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evangelism is a struggle for the students (as it is for all of us!). Please pray for boldness as we try to organise events and equip them for personal evangelism. They're often alone on their courses as Christians - pray that God would embolden them in this difficult situation.</li> <li>- We'd love some of the students to think about doing a Ministry Training Year at the end of their studies. Please pray as we talk to them about that.</li> <li>- Do pray for a culture of reading good Christian books to develop amongst the students.</li> </ul>	<p>down and most of the women aren't used to studying the Bible in that setting. Do pray for wisdom for Lizzie and Dawn as they lead the group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Praise God for some mums who are asking questions about the gospel. Pray for one mum who is hoping to read the Bible with the pastor's wife.</li> <li>- Please pray for good ideas for craft evangelistic evenings and for Christians to be motivated to help organise them.</li> <li>- Please pray that God would provide enough gifted and godly Sunday School leaders for next year.</li> </ul>	<p>(90 adults, 30 children), but the core of the church is relatively small. Please therefore pray that the preaching of God's word would be faithful and clear, week in, week out, and that God would win hearts and minds for the gospel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Please pray that God would use the men's breakfasts to build up the men in the congregation.</li> <li>- Please pray for some non-Christians to hear the gospel and be saved next year. Woluwe church often attracts Christians from other churches, but we'd love to also be reaching those with no church background or those with a Roman Catholic background.</li> </ul>
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### **Robbie's Master's Studies**

Robbie's Master's in Theology is going well. He has so far completed two modules, one on the Doctrine of Scripture and the other on the books of Romans and Hebrews. Praise God for the chance Robbie has had to think deeply and read widely on these topics. His next module begins in early September and is on 'The Reformed Doctrine of the Atonement'. Please pray that these studies would be sharpening Robbie theologically, would be useful to the gospel ministry here, and would cause him to love God and his word more deeply.

### **Training Gospel workers at the Institut Biblique Belge (IBB)**

Robbie has taught a Bible Handling class, Reformation Theology and a beginner's Hebrew class at the Belgian Bible Institute in Brussels this past year. It's great to see students hungry for God's word and desiring to understand it better and share it with others. Please pray for ongoing fruit from these classes and that would Robbie give himself to training these men and women. Robbie's particularly excited that a book called *Dig Deeper* has been translated into French and the students will be reading it this term.

### **Other points for prayer Funding**

We give God great thanks for how he has provided financially for our needs during our time in Belgium. This summer we have made the transition from having a student status to being employed by Crosslinks in Belgium. This is part of our long-term commitment to stay in the Belgium to make Jesus known here. This means that we now pay Belgian tax and social security. We believe that this is the best and most sustainable option going forward but it does mean that our costs will rise slightly.

- Please thank God for all those who are generously giving already.
- Please pray that more individuals would start supporting us financially and in prayer and that the total sum needed would be raised.

### **Family**

We moved flats this summer (still just a five minute walk from church). Do praise God for the provision of the new flat.

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Lola (our 2 ½ year old) is a great delight and a joy. She knows a few words of French but is mostly chattering in English at the moment! Please pray that she would understand more and more of what we're teaching her about Jesus and that one day she would repent and believe. Thank God that she's not been unsettled by us moving house this summer.



We're expecting a second child (a boy) in October, praise God! Please pray for continued safety for Lizzie and the baby, energy for Lizzie in these last few weeks, and for the baby to one day trust in Christ himself. Praise God as well for good rest over the summer as a family.

### Summer camp in Belgium

As we have done for a number of years, we served on a bilingual (French/English) summer camp for teenagers. It's held near Namur in the southern part of Belgium and Robbie was helping with the student helper-leader programme. Lizzie was helping with the family programme for the small children. Praise God for all that the students learnt in Ephesians and the children in Acts and please pray that this camp (InterAction Belgium) would be greatly used by God to raise up workers for his harvest field here.

Here's a summary of points for praise and for prayer:

#### Praise God:

- That we can call him Father because of what Jesus has done for us!
- For the chance to serve at Woluwe church in Brussels and at the IBB.
- For how he grew some students in their understanding and love of Jesus last year.
- For good rest over the summer.
- For baby Bellis number 2 arriving in October!

#### Please pray:

- That God's name would be honoured this coming year in French-speaking Europe, that his kingdom would come and that his will would be done.
- For a good number of students to commit to Woluwe church this year and for more Belgian students to be won for Christ and matured in him this year.
- For God to use the Thursday night and Friday afternoon bible studies in Romans this year.
- For safety and health for the new Bellis arriving in October!
- For God to motivate more individuals to generous giving.
- For Robbie's Master's Module to be useful and for him to finish his essay before the baby arrives!
- For the IBB Modules Robbie's teaching this term to be useful and for students to really benefit from reading Dig Deeper.

We've just moved house so do note the new address:

17 Place du Tomberg,

Boîte 14.

1200 Woluwe Saint Lambert.

Brussels

Belgium

Thank you very much for your partnership with us in the gospel!

Do keep in touch!

Robbie and Lizzie

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**Please contact your local Crosslinks office to change your contact details**

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