



October 2018

Hi All,



My friends and I at the Atomium for my birthday

I've been in Brussels for a month now. It has been a month of adventure, adjusting and admiring the beautiful city of Brussels. It's great that God has been with me guiding me.

Arrival

I arrived safely in Brussels with the other Crosslinks interns. Crosslinks mission partners Steve and Dawn Orange welcomed us into their home for the first night. I am staying in the building of the bible college which is very convenient for my studies. It was challenging sorting out contracts in French and locating everything. Everyone was really helpful and would give me directions; the only problem was that I couldn't fully understand the directions due to the slight

language barrier. I'm now completely settled in and have found all that I need.

Church

Most of my time is spent helping out at the church (Église Protestante Évangélique de Bruxelles Wolwue, EPEBW). Here I take part in all sorts of church activities:

- Taches Pratiques/Administration – helping out with any practical tasks around the church
- Sunday School – I help out with their 8-12 group (Dauphins) where we are currently studying 'Deux façons à vivre' or 'Two ways to live' in English. It's a very simple way to explain why Jesus came, the choice we have to follow him or not, and the result of both. It's a very simple way of sharing the gospel with friends, featuring six simple illustrations.
- Young adults' group – Every Thursday there is a group for 18-30 year olds and we are currently studying the gospel of Mark.
- Petits Lapins – the 'mums and toddlers' group takes place every Thursday morning. The other week we had the largest number they've had in history!
- Parcours Decouverte – This is similar to the Christianity Explored course in England. We have a few non-Christians who are coming along and really trying to find the truth and are keen to seek Jesus.



We had fun sorting out the kitchen cupboards

GBU

GBU is the CU equivalent in Brussels. It was a bit of a culture shock coming from England where almost every university has a CU. In Canterbury we have two very active CUs who often come together for

mission week. Brussels is very different; some universities don't even want to hear the name of God being spoken and don't allow the practice of religion. It's definitely more difficult to be a Christian here.

IBB

One day a week, I am studying at the Institut Biblique Belge (IBB). Here I am doing courses in Herméneutiques (How to interpret the Bible), Introduction à deux Testaments (studying the history of the two testaments and how they fit together) and Piété Personelle (personal holiness). These are all so interesting and I'm really learning a lot. There are several IBB (Institut Biblique Belge) students who I've become friends with; they are keeping me company and constantly checking up on me to make sure I'm okay.



First student night of the year

Other exciting things

- **My 21st Birthday** – I turned 21 this month and it was a weekend full of surprises. Robyn and Josie (two other Crosslinks interns) surprised me with a Belgian breakfast, balloons and bunting. Shortly after my friends also surprised me; they had come over from England to spend my birthday weekend with me. Sunday was Dimanche sans Voitures (Sunday without cars) meaning there were no cars on the road so we could walk freely in the middle of the road. Public transport was free so we were able to do a bit of exploring.
- **Alma day of evangelisation** – We held an evangelistic event on one of the campuses here in Brussels. We did some flyering for it which was challenging as not many students were interested. However, we did receive two students for the event which was an encouragement.
- **UJEB camp** – we held a camp for 17-25 year olds; we received 38 young people which was incredible. We studied 1 Corinthians and Colossians and looked at what happens to us after we die.

Please give thanks:

- I am now well settled into life here in Brussels and have made friends
- My studies at the IBB are going well and I'm learning a lot.
- The GBU exists and it's encouraging students to be bold in sharing the gospel with their friends and others on their campuses.



The Crosslinks team ready to welcome all the young people to the UJEB camp

Please pray:

- The children would be able to share 'Two ways to live' with their friends
- For boldness for the students here in Brussels to share the gospel with their friends and on their campuses
- Some of the new mums at Petits Lapins have many questions about the Christian faith. Pray that we would be able to help them know the truth and to continue to love them like Jesus does.
- For the people at Parcours Decouverte who are seeking the Lord. Pray that we would faithfully preach the word to them and be patient with them as they try and make sense of it all.
- The young people at the camp seemed to grasp the concept of life after death – an eternal life with God if we choose to believe in his Son's death on the cross. Pray that they would focus on staying close to the Lord and not become obsessed with the things of this world.

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