

# JANUARY 2019



Hello all,

The past two months have been very busy. I had the joy of starting November back home in England. It was great to relax and spend time with my mum and then to go to Canterbury and visit all my university friends. After returning from my little break it was all-hands-on-deck helping with many exciting events for church and the IBB especially around the Christmas period.

*'Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.'* (Psalm 121:1-2)

This verse helped me when I looked at the calendar of events for the Christmas period and I began to feel slightly overwhelmed. I remembered that I don't have to do things by my own strength, I have someone greater than me to help.

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## Church

- We had the annual convention of our association of churches. The theme was 'peace and conflict', remembering 100 years since the armistice, and we heard from several people working in areas of peace and conflict. On the Sunday we had three different services led by different leaders from the churches in the association. The day ended with a concert from the Canadian worship band 'Heritage'.
- As an evangelistic Christmas event, we held a gingerbread-decorating evening for women with a short talk on the meaning of Christmas. It was a lot of fun and we received several women from outside the church.
- We also held a Christmas party for children and it involved the Crosslinks interns doing a couple of sketches. It was my French acting debut.



*My French acting debut as Captain Charrrrmaine*

- On the last Sunday before Christmas, we had a Christmas service followed by a meal afterwards. It was great to see people bringing their friends and to share a meal as a church family before people went home to spend time with their biological families.

### IBB (Belgium Bible Institute)

- In November, I went away with all the full-time students at the IBB for a weekend away in Genval. I helped with the children and young people over the weekend.
- I have now finished my courses at the IBB for the semester and I'm preparing for the exams in January.



*IBB weekend away*

### Other Exciting Things

- My friends came to visit and we went to Bruges
- With several American students in the church and the GBU, we held a Thanksgiving meal and I experienced Thanksgiving for the first time. Everyone brought a classic Thanksgiving dish; we shared what we were thankful for and we had a talk on how we can be thankful for Jesus.
- I visited the famous Christmas markets of Brussels and saw the light show of Grand Place - they did not disappoint!

### Please pray for:

- All the people who came to our Christmas evangelistic events who don't normally attend church - that they will reflect on the message they heard and consider coming back to church, and that the friends who invited them will continue to have meaningful and intentional conversations.
- My preparations for the IBB exams
- The ministry team at church - Nathan and Robyn leave and Jack and Rachel arrive. Pray for adjustments, that Jack and Rachel would settle well. Pray too for the new team dynamics - that we would make good use of the skills and gifts the Lord has given to each of us.
- The next half of my year abroad – pray I'd keep pushing myself with my French, for new tasks and responsibilities, and the new courses I will be studying at the IBB this semester.
- Trust in God's provisions - as Nathan leaves, I worry about the running of the youth group. Please pray I'll remember that God will equip me for all he calls me to.

*'For to us a child is born, to us a son is given...He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'* (Isaiah 9:8)

I hope you all had a merry and blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please do let me know how I can be praying for you particularly as we begin 2019.

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