



# The Michels

*missionaries to the*  
**Netherlands**



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## Prayer Requests:

1. Our final papers to be accepted quickly, so we can purchase a vehicle.
2. Our family, as we adjust in this time of transition.
3. God to use new relationships to see people saved.

March 2013

This past month and a half has been a very busy and exciting for our family. I arrived in Holland on Saturday February 2<sup>nd</sup> after a long flight that took me from Toronto, to Warsaw, and finally to Amsterdam. I flew ahead of my family, so I could get our house, container, and immigration papers all dealt with before my family arrived. My wife and children joined me two weeks later on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

During those two weeks, I had hoped to have everything prepared before my wife and children arrived; however, I ran into a few obstacles. Upon arrival, I was required to report to the immigration office in my town in order to register and make sure our papers were in order. When I went to the office to do this, there was a misunderstanding of our visa papers. It turns out, that the officers in town had never dealt with a missionary before and were unfamiliar with the procedures and papers required. Instead of doing the work and research required to deal with me, they simply told me that my papers were wrong and I had to go back to Canada and begin the process all over again (which could take up to a full year). But after many phone calls, and physically travelling to the capital in Brussels and speaking to the head department personally, we finally got everything sorted out. I was able to officially register my family last week, and we are hoping that it will all go smoothly now. We just have to receive word from Brussels about our official acceptance of our paperwork, which can take up to 3 months.

My wife and children are pretty much settled in our new home with our new surroundings. They are adjusting well to being fully immersed in a Dutch society. Many of the people in town do speak English, but speaking Dutch is a high priority for our whole family. We are hoping to find a tutor for Collette to begin learning Dutch quickly.

We are also beginning to make several contacts with the people in town. The town we live in, Poppel, is a small town; and everyone already knows us as the Canadians in town. This is something that we are thankful for, because it has already given us many chances to share the Gospel when we explain why we moved here. Please pray for Robert, our neighbor, and Natasha, the town baker. Robert has been very helpful to us in getting used to the town, and we are hoping to have more opportunities to share the Gospel with him. Natasha lived in Seattle, WA for a number of years, and talked with Collette in the store for over an hour. She was glad to have "missionaries" in her town, and would like to get to know us better. Please pray that God would use these new relationships to share the Gospel, and see souls saved.

I would also like to ask you to pray for a man named Jean-Luke. Jean-Luke is a young man I met in Almere, NL last week while soul-winning. As I spoke with him about Christ, tears filled his eyes as he told me that for the past month he has wrestled with the fact that he doesn't know where he will spend eternity. He was very open, but had many questions. I wanted to speak to him longer, but he had an appointment to get to. Please pray that God would give me another opportunity to meet with Jean-Luke soon, and that he would be ready to receive Christ. Jean-Luke has a wife and four children, one of which he asked me to pray for because of his severe asthma.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support of our family. It is our great privilege to represent you as your missionaries reaching The Netherlands from the Belgian border.

In Christ,

Joel Michel and Family

*Acts 26:18 "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me."*