



The Michels

missionaries to the **Netherlands**



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Prayer Requests:

1. Language: Collette as she begins her studies; and as I continue to improve my Dutch.
2. New ministry opportunities and Bible studies beginning this summer.
3. God to work on the hearts of our neighbours for their need of salvation.

May 2013

Time is going by so quickly, as we have been quite busy these past two months. We are feeling quite settled in our home now, and we are so thankful for all that God has provided for us.

I am happy to inform you about some prayers that God has answered since our last prayer letter. Last month, we received all of our official paperwork from the immigration department in Brussels. We were so thankful for God working everything out on our behalf. The visa we were given is valid for one year, which we can renew in January 2014. I was told by the officer at the Town Hall that the process was very simple and easy, but we will see when the time comes. Thankfully, God is in control. After I received my Identity card from Brussels, I was able to obtain my Belgian driver's license as well. I was able to pick up my official driver's license from the Town Hall this morning.

Also another answer to prayer is that the Lord has provided us with a vehicle. Because we did not have all of our paperwork in the beginning, we were also unable to purchase a vehicle until I received my Belgian Identity card. During the transitional period, fellow missionary Stan Kamps graciously lent his van to us until our paperwork arrived. But three weeks ago, God allowed us to finally purchase a vehicle. We were so grateful how God met our needs all along the way. God's grace is always sufficient!

On the language front, I was able to find a Dutch language class last month. It was an extremely intense class for people with a more advanced knowledge of Dutch, who wish to become more proficient in their language usage in order to qualify for a university program. The duration of the class was just over two weeks long. Each day we were in class for six hours, and given about 5 hours of homework every night. Needless to say, after the two weeks I was mentally exhausted! But praise the Lord, I took the exam at the end of the course and passed. I am now registering for an advanced language class through Tilburg University of the Netherlands, which begins in September. Until then, I am continuing some self-study and practicing my Dutch everywhere I can.

Collette also will be beginning language training within the next few weeks. Please pray for her, as she is a little nervous; but we know that God will give her the grace that she needs to learn the Dutch language quickly.

I would like to ask you to pray for the Tambura family. They are a Romanian family that lives across the street from us that moved here two years ago. Collette met the mother, Mikkey, and her 4 year old daughter, Vivi, a few weeks ago. Annita and Vivi have become friends, and we have had a chance to get to know their family. Mikkey speaks English very well and is beginning to learn Dutch, and is so excited to have someone to talk to. Throughout the two years they have been here, we are the first ones to actually befriend them. We spent the afternoon with them yesterday, and they were very friendly and open to talk about the Lord. They have questions about the Bible and would also like to visit church with us. However, the hour drive will make it difficult for them. Please pray that God will work in their hearts about their need for salvation. But I am also praying that God will open the doors for us to possibly begin a Bible study with them.

I am also looking forward to new ministry opportunities this summer. Within a few weeks, I will be beginning a Bible study with the young boys of the church (ages 8-13). The boys are hungry to learn more about the Lord from His Word, and I am looking forward to seeing them grow.

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."