

January 2024, Michael & Rani Grivas-Allison



**Michael and Rani Grivas-Allison**

*Serving the Lord in Belgium*



Dear Friends,

A belated happy new year to you! 🇺🇰

Over the last month we've celebrated our first Christmas in Belgium, had two weeks off class, and are now well and truly 'back into it' as everyone returns to work and ploughs through the rest of winter.

**In God's kindness, this last month has also seen us turn several small-but-significant corners in our life here.**

We've had a **record number of weeks without sickness** (no small thing!) More people at **church** seem to recognise us as 'familiar faces'. We've figured out how to be **'winter commuters'** (i.e. pram + rain/cold/snow/ice). And we enjoyed a **new level of capacity** to parent, study and explore Brussels over the break.

In many ways, these are all very small things. But they are also generous **answers to your prayers** and encouraging signs that God is continuing to lead us through the long process of **adjusting to life in a new culture**, as we lay the foundations for life and service here.

**There are lots of things happening in the next month!** Another round of exams, a pastoral visit from CMS, and the GBU annual conference 'Hérauts' which we'll be attending as observers. **Read on for pics and prayer points!**

With love in Christ,

Michael & Rani

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*Above - exploring contrasting parts of Brussels over the break & figuring out commuting in the snow (pretty rare in Belgium, but still new for us!)*



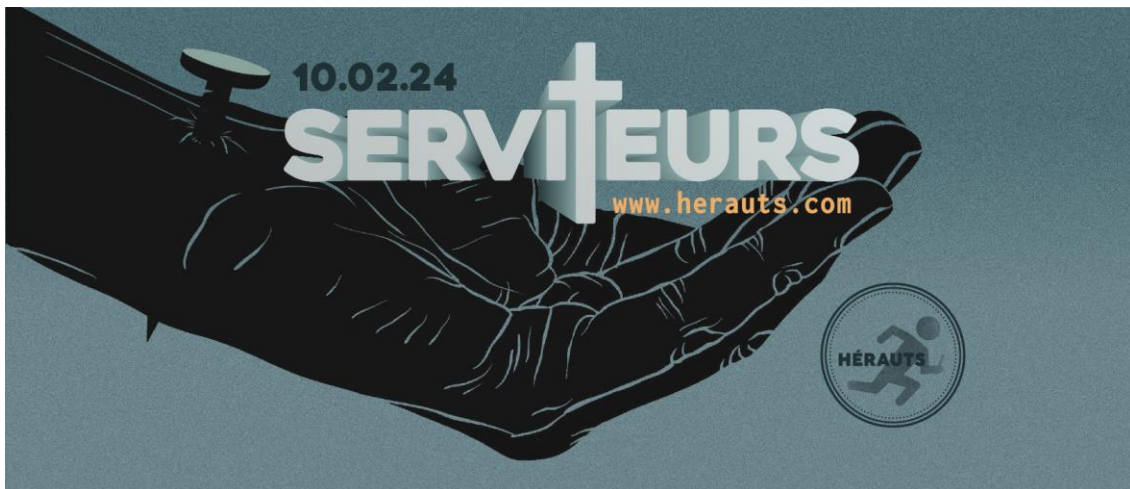
*Above - a brutal 'back into it' moment, when everyone throws out their Christmas trees after Epiphany...*



*Above - Alexi has started a new level of creche with the 'big kids'; and back to school for us (or in this case, the freezing listening lab!)*

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**GBU things - Hérauts and Léon!**



On 10 Feb, we'll be joining students from all over French-speaking Belgium at 'Hérauts' (literally, 'heralds') - the GBU's annual conference. The theme this year is 'service', with main talks from Isaiah 53. Needless to say, we're really looking forward to soaking up the 'GBU atmosphere', having (very short and broken!) conversations with students and observing what we can. **Please be praying for the speakers and our colleagues Alex and Sara as they prepare in these final weeks. Ask especially that God would work powerfully in the students through His Word.**

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**Meet Léon, the new GBU staffworker!** Léon is French, a recent graduate of the Brussels Bible Institute and **the first long-term staff worker to join Alex and Sara** (who have lead the GBU ministry for close to a decade). Needless to say, this is a huge deal for the GBU and a wonderful answer to prayer! Please **pray for Léon as he raises support** with a view to starting later this year. Please also ask for God's grace amidst all the **transitions** involved and for a **Christ-honouring** ministry in the GBU for many years to come.

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 **Please thank God...**

- For steadily **growing our capacity** as we adjust to life in a new culture.
- For **raising up Léon** as a worker for His harvest field.
- For providing GBU with the resources and capacity to run **'Hérauts' for its seventh year.**

 **Please ask God...**

- To help us in **our exams** (26 and 30 Jan).
- For good conversations during our **CMS pastoral visit** (17-19 Feb)
- For all things needed in the final for preparations **Hérauts** (10 Feb) and for His work in the students who come.
- To **provide generously for Léon** as he begins with GBU this year.

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*From Michael and Rani*



*"But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed." Isaiah 53:5*

**Say 'hello' or let us know you've prayed for us!**

## Financial Partnership

**We can't serve in Belgium without the generosity of God's people.**

If you'd like to give through financial support, please head to our [CMS giving page](#).

If you would prefer to give using a BSB and account number, please email CMS and they will send you the relevant details.

**We're so thankful for your partnership with us to see a world that knows Jesus!**

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Profile: <https://www.cms.org.au/missionaries/michael-and-rani-grivas-allison/>

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