

October 2024, Michael & Rani Grivas-Allison



Michael and Rani Grivas-Allison

with Alexi (2)

Serving the Lord in Belgium



Dear Friends,

Autumn in Brussels has truly arrived, with foggy mornings, the leaves turning, and pumpkins suddenly materialising everywhere!

With the obvious change of season this month, we also give thanks to God for the growth he has brought as we continue to adapt to life and prepare for ministry. Below we've shared some small-but-significant ways he has been doing that this past month. We hope they are an encouragement and fuel for your prayers!

Please do keep praying with us in this season of preparation - that God would give us humility to keep changing and growing, and that he would shape us in ways that will be useful and beautiful in his service.

Warmly in Christ,

Michael & Rani



This month Alexi started preschool and our family officially entered 'the school era'. Kids here generally start preschool (or '*maternelle* ') at two-and-a-half years old and attend for four-and-a-half school-length days per week. **Praise God** for a positive start for Alexi, a teacher who only speaks French (very helpful for us!), and some friendly interactions with parents so far. **Please be praying for us in this new season** - for flexibility as we learn and adapt to new aspects of Belgian culture; for warm connections with kids, parents and staff alike; and for opportunities to represent

Jesus.

Above: as you can see from the pics, preschool here is a little more 'school-like' than in Australia - with desks, individual classes, and more concrete! We've also discovered that waffle vans strategically park outside on rainy afternoons, adding a whole new emotional layer to pick up time...



We continue to occasionally dip into GBU events while we study French full time, in order to slowly build an understanding of the ministry. Recently this was a prayer night and an evangelism training day. It was great to see faithful Bible teaching, a warm atmosphere, and a real range of students present. All such good things to thank God for.



Above: students gathered from universities across Brussels, Liège and Charleroi for prayer, training and of course, good conversations over food.





Above: the (now) strange experience of singing in English, and delegates soaking up some Greek sun before returning to much colder parts of Europe!

This month, Michael was also away for a **five-day conference on public evangelism, hosted by IFES Europe** (the *International Fellowship of Evangelical Students*, of which GBU Belgium is a part). This was **a great opportunity to further understand our broader European ministry context, to be exposed to a breadth of approaches to sharing the Gospel, and to spend quality time with Alex and Léon, the two other male staff with GBU Belgium. This kind of thing will not be a regular feature of our ministry, but we are thankful for this broader Gospel network as we prepare to serve in a very particular corner of Europe.**

Please thank God...

- For a **strong start to preschool** for Alexi.
- For **GBU Belgium's focus on equipping students for evangelism.**

- For the **network of university workers** he has grown through IFES Europe.

Please ask God...

- To form in GBU students **Jesus' heart for the lost**.
- For **help to integrate new language content** in our upcoming exams (4-5 Nov).
- To continue to **open doors for the Gospel** in the universities of Europe.

From Michael and Rani



*"For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost."
Luke 19:10*

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



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