



November 2024



DAVID & CATHIE SANDIFER

with Annabelle (13) and Josiah (11)

Serving the Lord in the Netherlands



'Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.' (Titus 2:7-8)

Dear friends

A pastor friend shared once that before he was a Christian, he would often debate with one of his Christian friends at university. He actually felt at the time that he usually had the better of him, yet what amazed him was that his friend kept wanting to engage with him--and eventually it was this humility which brought him to Christ. Paul not only encourages Titus to show 'sound speech' in his teaching--to teach what is true--but also to be a 'model of good works' and to show both 'integrity' and 'dignity' in his teaching. As God opens up doors for us here to teach and share about Him, would you pray for us, both that we would be faithful to the truth, and also that this truth would be adorned by the grace that God manifests through both our speech and our lives?



Annie interviewing 'Luther' for the children's Reformation Day event at Tyndale.

Ministry Update

Our autumn has gotten off to a busy start on several fronts. David is teaching two of his 'core' classes that he teaches every year, 'Developing Healthy Churches' and 'Christian Ethics' and both groups of students have been

Via Anglican Church

It was nearly two years ago that we asked you to join us in praying about the possibility of starting a church plant in our local village of Badhoevedorp. Our new colleagues at the time, Ken and Julie Moser, were keen for us to do this together, and we agreed to join with them in prayer about it. We were motivated by two things: first, the need for a biblically faithful Anglican church in the Amsterdam area, especially in terms of some of our students from Anglican backgrounds; and secondly, the fact that there was no Evangelical church in our immediate area (one had to ride at least 30 min. by bike to get to one). As we sensed increasingly God calling us to do this, we began a conversation with Bp. Andy Lines, of the Gafcon-aligned Anglican Convocation in Europe, and in time received his blessing to move forward. One early hurdle was finding a place to meet: it needed to be close by, and also affordable, since we'd be operating on a very limited budget at the start. After several false starts, Cathie scouted a 'philosophy hall' attached to the local Catholic church and, when we inquired, it was offered to us for 25 Euros a week!



As we were thrilled to report to you at the time, this past Easter we began Sunday services at 'Via Anglican Church'. Our average attendance is about 20 at this point--a handful of Tyndale students, a few others who heard of us by word of mouth, and a couple from the local community. There is a lovely warm and relaxed, but reverential, atmosphere every time we meet. Cathie and Annie usually make a light supper, with soup, cakes, and the like, and most people stay for 45 min. to an hour afterwards talking each week. The children are included in the service, and there is usually a children's talk. David and Annie usually lead the singing, and David alternates with Ken, another Tyndale faculty member who joined us, and a couple of students for the preaching. Part of the vision for the church is that it would be a place to train up future Anglican ministers, and there are already at least two students in the pipeline for this.

The beginning of Via was very much a low-key 'soft launch' and now little by little we are adding bits. We've now begun a monthly prayer meeting. Our biggest prayer request is that we would be able to reach in to our community more. We are about to launch our website, and, God willing, will be offering an Alpha class after the New Year. We are so thankful to God for the sweet thing that He is doing at Via and the privilege of being a part of it--please join us in asking for His continued favour on it going forward!

responsive and a joy to teach. He is also supervising a master's thesis for a student from Ethiopia, who is writing on the relationship between sanctification and spiritual warfare, in response to how, in some Christian circles, these two areas can be strangely severed from each other. Also, we have shared previously about David's involvement in the European Leadership Forum (ELF), which meets in May. This past year, David was asked to step in as co-leader of the Academic Network at the forum, and he has now taken on this role in an on-going way, which involves networking with and encouraging Evangelicals involved in academic roles across Europe. We shared with you some time ago that Cathie had begun a children's club with two other local women. The format struggled to draw neighborhood children, and this term they've decided to switch to occasional events. The first one was a Reformation Day event--as an alternative to Halloween--which was a great success, and the next one is planned as a Christmas event, on Dec. 23rd.

Family News

Cathie continues to devote most of her time to homeschooling Annie and Josiah--which is becoming increasingly demanding and multi-faceted as the children get older! Annie loves the girls' Bible study she attends, along with youth group at a nearby church. Both of them are continuing to enjoy playing on their hockey teams, and Cathie has now stepped in as coach for Annie's team! This has been a special opportunity, as well as a challenge--we appreciate your prayers that she would both do this well and reflect Jesus in it!



On a day trip to Bruges (Belgium) a few weeks ago

Give thanks

- For good health this fall for all of us
- For a great group of students at Tyndale, and the privilege of training them
- For the encouraging start to Via church
- For special ministry opportunities like ELF, the children's club, and the hockey team
- For God's tender mercies towards us, which are new every morning!

Please pray

- For David's teaching at Tyndale to be effective and bear long-term fruit
- For God to draw the right students for next year, and for more students from Europe
- For financial provision for Tyndale
- For more inroads into our community through the kid's club and Via
- For us to walk closely with the Lord each day

From David, Cathie, Annabelle and Josiah



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AUS: give.cms.org.au/dcsandifer



US: give.sams-usa.org/project/sams-collaborative-missionaries-david-and-cathie-sandifer