

February 2025, Michael & Rani Grivas-Allison



## Michael and Rani Grivas-Allison

with Alexi (2)

*Serving the Lord in Belgium*



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Dear Friends,

**February has turned out to be a humbling month for us...**

After a great and healthy start to winter, it seems that **the Brussels combination** of high-density living 🏙️, great public transport 🚆, indoor events to escape the cold 🍷 (and surely the culture of kissing to greet each other! 🍷) finally came for us. As a result, **since our last newsletter, we've all spent a good amount of time dealing with various bugs!** 🤧 It's been **humbling to have had to cancel plans, miss consecutive weeks at church, and shift our priorities**, and if we're honest, we've felt Satan use this period to discourage us...

Yet at the same time, **February has also been a hopeful month for us** 🌱 We have seen **God at work in many ways** - for our good, for the good of His kingdom,

and as we prepare for ministry here. **How good it is that we can genuinely "give thanks to Him in all circumstances"** (1 Thess 5:18), that He works through your prayers, and that **He can be trusted to work out His purposes no matter the season** 🙏

**We hope you are encouraged to read** some snapshots of this below, **and to pray with us** as we 're-launch' into spring and (God-willing) post-lurgy life.

In grateful partnership,

Michael & Rani



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## **Give thanks to God with us that...** 🙌

**Hérauts (GBU's annual conference) was very well-received** by the 140 students and 37 ministry leaders (from 50 different churches in Belgium and neighbouring countries) who came to hear **faithful Bible teaching** and **be equipped in evangelism** 🌍 📖 🙏

**Michael was well enough to attend Hérauts on the day**, got to **chat with lots of students in French**, and even got to help out at the bookstore 📚 🤗 (i.e. Grivas-Allison happy place).

**Rani was able to complete the 3-week integration course which is**





Above: students 'describe Herauts in 1 word' - "edifying, relevant, encouraging, equipping, proclamation, serving, sharing, unity, vision, inspiring, community, resourcing". A pretty great summary!

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### A bonus student testimony from Hérauts:

"I was really encouraged in my testimony of Jesus. The workshops in which I participated taught me to share the Gospel in a simple way in my ordinary life.

**I had a heart to put into practice what I learnt during the conference, and with the prayer support of others at Herauts and at GBU Liège, I invited two non-believing friends to the GBU...and they accepted to come and discover the Christian faith! They want to come back to know more and one even told me that it pushed her to return to church."**

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Above: integration course snaps - chatting with other 'new arrivals' to Brussels, and a visit to the Brussels Capital Region Parliament. The course covered topics like education, employment, social security, politics, history and healthcare...a mix of really helpful info, and flashbacks to high-school geography!

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Above: some snaps of family life over the last month... our long-awaited Belgian driver's licences (to drive cars and scooters!) and Alexi flouting his Australian-ness in the park.



Above: the first daffodils after winter and a pot of flowers dropped off by a family at church to cheer us up in the slog of winter sickness.

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## Upcoming dates...

- **Back to school and language classes** (10 March)
- **Exams** (10-15 April)
- **Rani attends *Chrétiennes Consacrées***, a women's conference hosted by our church network (22 March)
- **Final full-time French level begins** (12 May)

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## Please thank God...

- **For the faithful, clear and applied preaching of His Gospel at Hérauts.**
- **For sustaining and caring for us** through a rough patch of sickness.
- **For continuing to establish us** here administratively, and in French.

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## Please ask God...

- **For the smooth and timely renewal of our Belgian work permit** and, later this year, our visas.
- **To stir up a hunger among Christian students in Belgium to know, live and share the Gospel.**

- For continued opportunities to point Isabel and others in our life to Jesus.

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*From Michael and Rani*

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



*"It is good to give thanks to the Lord,  
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;  
to declare your steadfast love in the morning,  
and your faithfulness by night. "*

Psalm 92:1-2

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**Financial Partnership**

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**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!**

CMS is a fellowship of Christian people and churches committed to global mission. We work together to set apart long-term workers who cross cultures to share the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our vision is for a world that knows Jesus. We aim to do this by: reaching gospel-poor peoples for Christ, equipping Christian leaders for church and society, and engaging churches in cross-cultural mission.

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