

August 2025, Michael & Rani Grivas-Allison



Michael and Rani Grivas-Allison

with Alexi (3)

Serving the Lord in Belgium



Dear Friends,

After an August of extremes (an energetic kids camp followed by a moody holiday on the Belgian coast), **we are now about to dive head first into 'la rentrée', the busy return to routine and 'life as usual' as we begin the new academic year.** 🍷

In our last update, we celebrated the end of formal language learning. 🙌 In this one, we share not only some updates from the Summer, but also **what lies ahead as we enter the final stretch of our first term of service.** 🌍 We hope it gives you a better picture of **where all these small, slow steps are headed (God willing!),** and fuels your prayers and partnership with us long term to see a Belgium that knows Jesus.

With deep thanks for our partnership,

Michael & Rani

Thank you for praying for 'Interaction' camp!





Earlier this month, we spent eight days in a castle (yes, you read that right), dressing up as pirates, speaking a constantly-alternating mix of English and French, and meeting more British people than we have in our entire lives...all as part of a team which pulls together every year to run a bilingual, Bible-based, kids camp in the Belgian countryside.

This very unique combination of things is actually a very established part of the evangelical landscape here. 'Interaction' Summer camps have been running for close to 15 years in Belgium, coming out of **a unique partnership that God has grown between Belgian Christians and a small group of UK missionaries** (and those who support them) to develop a Summer camp ministry for Belgian youth.

We went along to serve in a small way (Michael co-led a French boy's dorm group), **to form relationships** with other like-minded Christians here, **to be a low-key GBU presence**, and **to better understand** a space that will likely be part of our Summer community and rhythm in the future.

Thank you for praying for the camp! The campers had a *very fun* time and were inundated with opportunities to engage meaningfully with the Gospel throughout the week. It was truly encouraging to see, praise God!

Thank you also for praying for us! Amidst many stretches and 'firsts' throughout the week, God gave us encouraging and insightful conversations, warm connections, and some precious 'light bulb' moments about serving here (which will have to wait for another time to share). All very kind answers to your prayers.



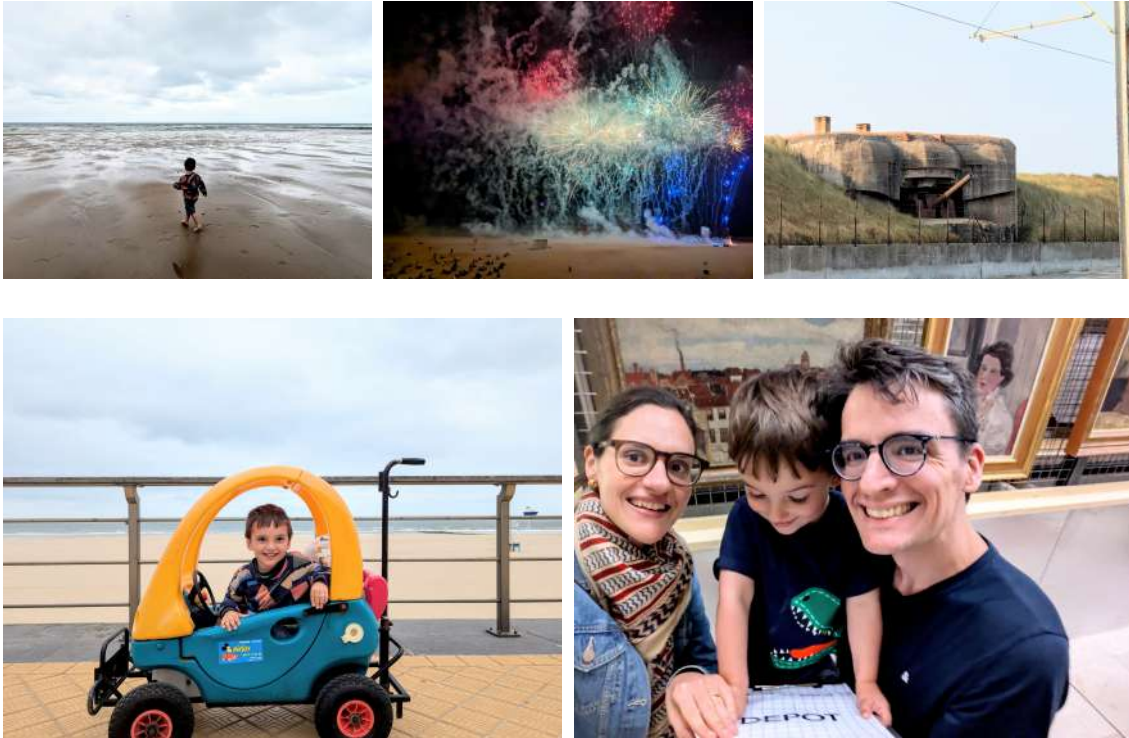


Above: campers hearing testimonies, Michael's boys' dorm Bible study, and bilingual singing (yes, it's possible!) during the daily Bible sessions on Ephesians.



Above: from Rani and Alexi's end - heavy enjoyment of the pirate theme, some teaching on Nehemiah, many opportunities for good chats and slow walks/being carried throughout the Belgian countryside.

Summer holidays by the North Sea...



Thank God for much-needed time away together after camp on the Belgian coast. People here are often bemused that as Australians, we would want to spend our Summer holiday in a place that tends to be windy, grey, and cold! **But this stretch of coastline has been a lovely provision from God for us over the past few years** - easy to get to by train, and supplying plentiful opportunities to stare at the ocean.

Above: some holiday quirks - very low tides, fireworks to mark the Assumption of Mary public holiday, residual guns from the Nazi occupation, tiny rental cars and checking out some art by James Ensor, the Belgian surrealist.

What's ahead? A new season and big changes...

As CMS workers, our first term has always been dedicated to 'learning language and culture'. If you've been journeying with us for a while now, you'll know that this is not excessive - learning a language from scratch and understanding a new culture demands many things...not least of which is a lot of time!

Now that we've finished full-time language study, **we're now looking to bring this dedicated season of learning to a strong finish, while preparing under God for what is next.**

In the remaining eight months of our first term, our focus will be on:

- Getting our **French** to the strongest place possible (partly through continued

classes).

- Taking a subject or two at the **Institut Biblique de Bruxelles** (the local Bible college), to improve our ministry French and to build relationships.
- **Orientation to and active service within the GBU ministry.**
- **To prayerfully discern where we will serve** after our first Home Assignment (likely in another city in French-speaking Belgium).

Thank God with us in all of this for the wise direction of our boss and GBU General Secretary Alex and our colleague Sara, as they help us lay good foundations for long-term service. **Please do pray for us!** We are equally excited and daunted by this new season and **very aware of our need for God's help** to learn well, love people with what we have, prize faithfulness over proving ourselves, and trust Him to bring growth.

A rough snapshot for those who like graphics...

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MORNING	FRENCH CLASS	FRENCH CLASS	GBU	SUBJECT AT BIBLE INSTITUTE	GBU
AFTERNOON	PREP/HW/OTHER	PREP/HW/OTHER	GBU	PREP/HW	GBU
EVENING	GBU BRUXELLES (WEEKLY)	GBU LIEGE (IRREGULAR)			

Above: from this month, this is roughly what we expect our weeks to look like. As always with ministry life, this will change and develop as we discern how to balance different priorities, but it gives you an idea of where we will be investing our time. We will both be at the GBU Brussels meeting each week while Alexi is with our babysitter Kelly, but will take it in turns to visit Liège as needed.



Upcoming dates...

- **La rentrée** (Alexi back to school, 24 August)
 - **Church weekend away** (6-7 Sept)
 - **Preaching subject begins** at L'Institut Biblique de Bruxelles (4 Sept)
 - **Advanced French class begins** (15 Sept)
 - **GBU formally kicks off for the year** (22 Sept)
 - **Home Assignment** (roughly end of April - end of August 2026)
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Please thank God...

- **For the renewal of our work permit** for the next three years!
- **For the faithful ministry of Interaction camp** and the 60 campers who heard the Gospel.
- **For the gift of a holiday** and time together as a family.

Please ask God...

- **For a positive re-entry to school for Alexi** (24 August).
- **For smooth and successful visa applications** (still needed despite our work permit).
- **For practical wisdom and deep abiding in Christ** as we adapt to a new season of study, learning, and service.

From Michael and Rani

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

*"I am the vine; you are the branches.
If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit;
apart from me you can do nothing."
John 15:5*



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!

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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