

September 2024, Michael & Rani Grivas-Allison



Michael and Rani Grivas-Allison

with Alexi (2)

Serving the Lord in Belgium



Dear Friends,

People in Brussels are always telling us that 'la rentrée' (the start of the school year in Europe) is a bit of a whirlwind. The more we're drawn into life here, the more we feel it too!

This month we've started another cycle of intensive language learning, Alexi has returned to crèche, our church has shared several significant moments together, and there have been some exciting new changes for the GBU. Whew!

We are so thankful for your faithful prayers each month, not only for us but also for God's kingdom in Belgium. **Despite many challenges and being a tough ministry context, we can see many good things happening here and God is clearly at work.**

We hope you're encouraged to see just a few recent glimpses of that below. **Please keep praying with us for Belgium, for His people here, and for our preparation to join those already working in the harvest!**

With joy in Christ and our partnership,

Michael & Rani

'Hello's' and 'goodbyes' at church...



Earlier this month, we went to our church's annual camp for the first time. It was a great time of saying a 'proper hello' to people away from the bustle of our church building on a Sunday. Praise God for a noticeable 'vibe' of more people recognising us as part of the community and for lots of halting-but-warm conversations in French.

Above: one of the many breaks for delicious food, and Alexi enjoying some free-range exploring.



Above: an afternoon activity of elaborate team games - needless to say, we were much more

useful in the one's with simple instructions!



Our church also recently said 'hello' to some newly baptised brothers and sisters!

Our favourite part of the service was seeing the 4 young people who were baptised emerging from the baptistry with white clothes, including a shimmering white dress! A beautiful picture of new life that we have in Christ and the glorious resurrection to come.



Above: a final word to the congregation and a special choir to mark the moment ('choral items' seem to be a bit of a love language at our church!)

Just this week we've also said 'goodbye' to our pastor Paul and his family as they

leave to serve at another church in Brussels. It was particularly moving for us to hear people share **what it meant to have a faithful and loving pastor after a painful history of division** (a broader theme in the history of the Belgian evangelical church). There is lots to pray for in this space over the months to come.

Another great step for GBU Belgium ...



This month, the GBU staff team officially grew! Above you can see the team with Léon, who recently graduated from the *Institut Biblique de la Bruxelles*, which is the evangelical theological college here. **It is no small thing to have a native French-speaking and theologically trained person join the team**, so praise God for Léon and please pray that He would keep shaping and growing this team for joyful, fruitful, and long-lasting service of His kingdom.

Please thank God...

- For **opportunities to better know and understand our church community.**
- For **recent baptisms at our church** to publically celebrate new life in Christ.
- For **raising up workers** for His harvest in Belgium.

Please ask God...

- For **deep unity and love in our church amidst a big change**, and for a godly and faithful new pastor in His timing.
 - To **enable and encourage Léon** as he transitions into GBU ministry.
 - To **richly meet our family as Alexi begins pre-school** (5 days a week) from Oct 8.
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From Michael and Rani



"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus." Romans 15:5-6

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

A promotional banner for CMS Summer School 2025. The background is a warm orange and yellow gradient with a faint pattern of people. On the left, the CMS logo is followed by the text "SUMMER SCHOOL 2025". In the center, the text "THE STRANGER'S HOPE" is displayed, with "HOPE" in a large, bold font. On the right, there is a dark blue button with the text "Register now".

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.

Email: mrgrivas-allison@cms.org.au

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

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