



July 2026



DAVID & CATHIE SANDIFER

with Annabelle (15) and Josiah (13)

Serving the Lord in the Netherlands



'Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life.' (Phil. 2:14-16a, NIV)

Dear friends

Complaining and arguing don't seem like such big sins! In fact, perhaps they seem almost inevitable. And yet Paul contrasts them with being 'blameless and pure', and ties them to the brightness of our witness. It would seem that the glory of our testimony in this world comes down partly to our faithfulness in fighting the 'small sins' and that this is often what it looks like to 'work out our salvation with fear and trembling' (Phil. 2:12). We've been reminded several times lately that the Lord calls us to be meticulous in honouring Him in our relationships with each other, and that He works through us as we do this. Please pray that we would not weary in this, but would rely on the God who works in us (Phil. 2:13).

Ministry Update

The academic year is coming to a close at Tyndale, and though David has been on sabbatical, it will be sad to farewell our graduates--please pray for God's direction and empowering for them in their next steps.

We've seen some growth at Via church in the last several months, with some new families added. As a result, things were getting very tight some Sundays, and we began praying and searching for another possible venue. The Lord provided this through the local Reformed church, which has graciously allowed us to use their space at an affordable cost. So far, it seems like a great fit, and we are so thankful to the Lord for this provision (though the building is up for sale, so please pray that we can continue to have the use of it). Also, we are hoping to have one of our graduates, who has served as an intern this year and who is in the ordination process, stay on next year in a part-time role as a kind of curate. His name is Samuel--please pray for God's provision for this if it's His will.



Lunch on our back patio with David's mentoring group.



Via church service on 28 June, at our new home, Pelgrimskirk.



David with the members of the Academic Network at the ELF conference in May.

David was able to participate in the European Leadership Forum once again in Poland in May, and to both present a couple of seminars and co-lead the Academic Network. It was a particularly valuable time together this year, with one participant commenting that it felt like our own little 'fellowship of the ring'. We appreciate your prayers for David in the first week of July, as this year he will be co-leading the Cambridge Scholars Network, which seeks to equip Evangelical PhD candidates from across Europe to stand faithfully for Christ in their academic contexts, and to integrate their faith with their scholarship.

Schooling Update

As you may know, Annie and Josiah have been home-schooled since we've been here. The situation in the Netherlands has been that this is legal, provided a special exemption is given. We've applied for this each year (and asked for your prayers for it!), and each year so far have received it. However, in April the Dutch Supreme Court handed down a judgement which reinterpreted existing law and made it virtually impossible for parents to home-school. As a result, our local municipality has informed us that our children will need to be enrolled in a school, and have scheduled a meeting to confer with us about this. Here is the interesting twist: completely separately to this, for the last year and a half or so, Cathie has been praying and networking about the possibility of starting a classical Christian school in our area, as there is a huge need for something like this (there is no Christian secondary school within the greater Amsterdam area). It seemed like a bit of a reach, but also like it was the faithful thing to take steps and see where it would lead. In light of the current situation, however, there is now a new urgency to this, as it could meet a need for many home-schooling families. As a result, Cathie has been very busy working on this possibility for the last few weeks--pursuing accreditation options, assembling a board, contacting potential parents of students, looking for a venue and applying for a course leading to a teaching certificate. As it happens a retired member of our church is a certified teacher, and has offered to teach, and others have come forward also. Obviously, all of this is a huge deal, with many, many unknowns ahead, and it will only happen if the Lord is in it. Please pray for God's direction and supply in all of this, and particularly for the provision of a possible location.

Give thanks

- For continued good health for all of us
- For a great group of Tyndale graduates
- For a promising incoming class for the autumn
- For God's provision of a great, larger space for Via
- For many reminders that God is in control with the sudden upheaval with schooling options
- For renewed joy and peace in the Lord, and for the fresh ways He has revealed Himself to us

Please pray

- For clear guidance from the Lord about the next steps for Annie and Josiah's schooling, and particularly for confirmation and direction for Cathie as she pursues the possibility of starting a classical Christian school
- For a good conclusion to David's sabbatical, and for good preparation for the next term
- For the next steps for our graduates
- For the possibility of Samuel serving at Via
- For us to rejoice in the Lord each day

From David, Cathie, Annabelle and Josiah



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