



April 2024



DAVID & CATHIE SANDIFER

with Annabelle (13) and Josiah (10)

Serving the Lord in the Netherlands



'Let your work be seen by your servants, and your splendor by their children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be on us; establish for us the work of our hands—establish the work of our hands!'
(Ps. 90:16-17, CSB)

Dear friends

A near universal desire for human beings is for one's own life to have some kind of lasting impact. Yet Moses in Psalm 90 reflects on the futility of this, in light of our own transience. However, he ends his prayer with two petitions: first, that we would see God at work; and second, that our *own* work would be established, that is, would last. Here is the anti-dote, then, to impermanence and fruitlessness--to see clearly, first of all, the greatness of God's work on our behalf; and, secondly, for our work to find favour with God, and thus to endure by His grace. Would you pray for us that our ministry would be characterised by these two qualities?

'Back home'

Thank you so much to all of you who have been praying for Josiah's health. We are so glad to report that he seems so much better: he is now eating well, has put on weight, and has lots of energy. We never received a clear-cut diagnosis for his struggles, but we are deeply thankful that God has restored his health. Our children are doing well all around, and are glad to be back. Though we know that Australia will always be their 'first home', and that they miss their family terribly in the Netherlands, we have been praying for them to be settled here. And both of them have commented separately and how it was nice to be 'back home'. We are so thankful that God has helped us to put our roots down here!



Annie and Josiah on the flying fox in the park near our home.

Jumping in with both feet

We returned to Tyndale midway through the academic year, and found things at full steam here. David has an extra heavy load this term, as he's compressing a normal year's teaching load into six months. His classes have gone particularly well, however, and he's been encouraged by the responsiveness of the students. Cathie and the children have jumped back into homeschooling, along with Dutch studies and sport--it's been a blessing to be back into a settled rhythm.



Three of us joined the Tyndale choir for the (first ever) Easter Cantata this year!



Our co-worker Ken Moser leading the first service of Via Anglican Church (though technically not yet a church!) on Easter Sunday.

For some time now we have been asking you to pray about the possibility of an Anglican church plant here in our village. We are very pleased to report that on Easter Sunday we had our first service! A big part of moving forward on this was God's provision of a venue--a 'philosophy hall' which has allowed us to rent the space for the minimal sum of 25 Euros a week. It was a very small beginning (14 people) but we were encouraged by those who were there, and believe that this is something God is calling us to be a part of. Please pray for God to direct this according to His will. Initially, we are calling this an 'Anglican Service', not a church, but the hope is that, God willing, this might become a congregation under the Anglican Convocation in Europe (the bishop of the ACE, Andy Lines, will be visiting with us next week).

Another new local development is a kids' Bible club that Cathie and the children will be helping to lead. A relatively young Christian mother in our neighborhood (who came to the Lord through the witness of a Tyndale student!) is very passionate about starting this, and Cathie will be helping and hosting the club in our home every other Friday. They began with a special neighborhood event on Good Friday, to which 15 children came! Invaluable help was given by a retired Dutch Child Evangelism Fellowship worker, and she has agreed to continue to assist in the future. Please pray for God to use this to reach the hearts of the children in our neighborhood!



Good Friday launch event in the park for the neighborhood Bible club, with CEF worker Wilma giving the Bible talk.

Upcoming opportunities

One of the things we've prayed for since we've been here is for David to have opportunities to minister in French. We've seen an answer to that prayer in an invitation that he received to give a one-day intensive at the Brussels Bible Institute on April 26th. He will be speaking on the topic of faithful Christian living in a secular culture. Also, David has been involved with a conference which Tyndale will be hosting with Christian author Carl Trueman, at the end of June. As a part of this, he will also be teaching a follow-on intensive class at Tyndale on engaging secularism. Trueman has written one of the most important books of cultural apologetics in the last few years--please pray that the conference especially will be well received by the Christian leaders here in the Netherlands. Finally, David has agreed again to give a presentation at the annual European Leadership Forum in Poland in May. In addition, he's been asked to serve as co-convenor for the academic network at this event, something he feels woefully under-qualified for, but which he has also agreed to also. ELF is probably the largest annual gathering of evangelical Christian leaders in Europe, and a wonderful opportunity both to make connections for Tyndale, and to encourage the body of Christ. We're very thankful that God has given David this opening, and appreciate your prayers that it might be fruitful.



The Youtube video promotion for the seminar David will be giving in Brussels on April 26th.

We are so thankful for God, who has given us a 'wide door for effective work' here in the Netherlands, and we are thankful for each of you for your prayers and support without which, we know, we could never be here. May He encourage and establish you in your own life and ministry each day!

Give thanks

- For successful re-insertion into life in the Netherlands
- For healing for Josiah, and good health for the rest of the family
- For encouraging classes for David
- For new ministry opportunities and concrete answers to prayer
- For God continuing to speak into our hearts anew as we seek after Him

Please pray

- For re-approval to homeschool the children (our application is taking longer than usual)
- For the new church plant to be a bright light in our community
- For the Kids' Bible Club to reach children in our neighborhood
- For equipping for upcoming opportunities
- For the Carl Trueman conference and follow-on class
- For preparations for visiting our US churches and supporters in July
- For us to be renewed in Christ's joy daily

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