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July 2024, Michael & Rani Grivas-Allison



## Michael and Rani Grivas-Allison

*with Alexi*

*Serving the Lord in Belgium*



Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for praying us through the last month of exams and end-of-year events. It was a bit of a crawl-to-the-finish-line, but we were so encouraged to receive **reports of being prayed for on Sundays, in prayer meetings, in Bible studies, and by individuals throughout the month.** We are amazed by your faithfulness in praying for us **"on all occasions, with all kinds of prayers and requests"**. And we praise God that you **"keep on praying"** (Eph 6:18) as the months roll by!

**This month has marked another milestone for us - our first 'full-year cycle' in Belgium.** This time last Summer, we were totally thrown when the whole country seemed to stop after we'd been here only a few months. Now that we've done a proper 'Summer-to-Summer' European year, we feel much more acclimatised and in-sync with everyone else!

**We'll be doing a bunch of different things over the break** - a bit of choose-your-own-adventure French, a family holiday, life admin etc.. But most of all, we'd love you to be praying with us for a **good rest in body, mind and spirit, and renewed focus**

as we look ahead to the next 'leg' of our preparation for Gospel ministry here.

Thank you for upholding us in prayer and as always, **feel free to drop us a line** to share how we can be praying for Jesus' mission where you are.

With love in Christ,

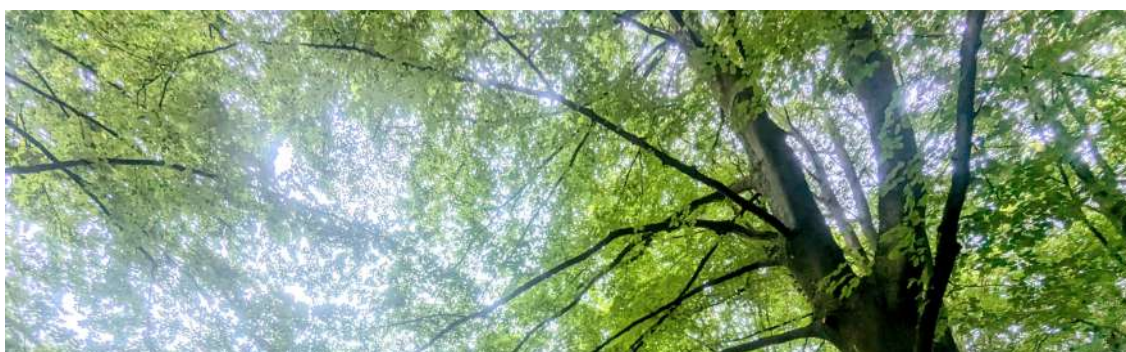
Michael & Rani

## End-of-year happenings...



## We passed our exams!

Pictured above is a 'quick' celebratory coffee with our class-mates. It ended up lasting for a few hours and included some great conversation topics like the resurrection and cremation, relics and miracles, and OT stories in the Qur'an! **Thank God for the trust he's been slowly building with these guys.** Please pray for our boldness and opportunities to speak the gospel as we continue studying together after the Summer.







## GBU celebrated the end of year with a picnic!

In classic Belgian style this took place with raincoats, grey skies, and on a 15 degree day (which also happened to be the Summer solstice). It was encouraging to see supporters and students turn out despite the weather to farewell graduating students, welcome new staff worker Léon and of course, eat lots of delicious food.

**We don't go to many GBU events, but we're consistently struck by the strong sense of community among the students. Praise God!**



## Our church had a 'love feast'!

For the end of the year our church held a big celebration, with a Sunday School 'graduation' in the service (which included personalised words of exhortation, pictured above, given in front of the whole church!) and a 'Love Feast' (the one time of year that our church shares a meal together).

Despite the high-density crowd and high-decibel French, we managed a few good chats and feel like we **gained new insight into how people at our church 'do relationships'**.





## High-vis, diggers and big sticks...

Finally, Alexi has been wrapping up the year with some special **outings** with his crèche, lots of **digger-inspections** (with roadworks happening everywhere before the Summer break), and proudly clearing **logs** in the forest after some big Summer storms...

### 🙏 Please thank God...

- For **getting us through exams** and **our first 'full year' in Belgium**.
- For slowly **growing trust and opportunities** with our classmates.
- For the end of another GBU year and the **culture of love and welcome** that is evident among the students.

### 🙏 Please ask God...

- For his gift of **deep spiritual rest and renewed focus** over the Summer.
- For growing **relationships at church** in a quieter season.
- To **flourish GBU students in their faith and witness** over the break.

*From Michael and Rani*





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*"Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be?  
You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and  
speed its coming."  
2 Peter 3:11-12*

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

## 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!**

Email: [mrgrivas-allison@cms.org.au](mailto:mrgrivas-allison@cms.org.au)

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

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