

November 2026

DAVID & CATHIE **SANDIFER**

with Annabelle (15) and Josiah (13)

Serving the Lord in the Netherlands



'Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand.' (Phil. 4:5)

Dear friends

Tucked in between Paul's more famous injunctions to 'rejoice in the Lord always' (v. 4) and to be 'anxious for nothing' (v.6), his charge for us to be known for our 'reasonableness' (or 'gentleness') may seem like an odd one at first glance. A clue is given to us by the way the Greek word here is used in other contexts: it is most often associated with the kindness and even-temperedness of a good ruler or king, who is entreatable and just. It is the word used for the 'meekness' of Christ in 2 Cor. 10:1. So it carries the idea of a noble countenance: the unanxious, generous, kind and gentle attitude of someone confident in their station and using it for good (as in, in English, a '*gentle*-man' or '-woman'). We, then, who belong to the King who is 'close at hand', and soon to be revealed, are to demonstrate our true identity by reflecting His bearing in the world. In this anxious age and anxious season, would you pray that we would be like our Lord, and that our 'reasonableness' would be known to all those around us?

Ministry Update

We thank God for another term almost ended at Tyndale. David's classes have gone well, and he particularly enjoyed the new preaching class which he is now co-teaching as part of the curriculum revisions. Historically, while Tyndale students have been well equipped in the original languages and in exegesis, there has been a relative lack of training in preaching. It has been a joy to see

the students really respond to the opportunity to grow in this area and practice their gifts, and mature in confidence and effectiveness. Two of the students in the class are also interns at Via church, which gives them the chance to preach there—a big encouragement both to them and us. David will continue to serve as department chair during home assignment, so we appreciate your prayers for this juggling act while he's in Australia.



Dinner at the last Alpha night on 29 Nov.

We have just completed our 10-week Alpha course at Via, and this has been a big answer to prayer. We were not sure initially if we would have any outside participants, but four came over the course of the class, and in particular two non-believing women (a neighbour and a co-worker of Via members) have been faithful participants, and have been increasingly responsive over the course of the class. Neither have yet come to the Lord, but God is clearly working in their hearts, and one of the two is planning on coming to church, and perhaps even joining a home group. Please pray for God to continue to work in both of them, and especially for us to be able to build on what God has done so far. We've not had home groups in the past at Via (though we knew we should eventually), and this has been the opportunity to begin one as a way to create a bridge for them for on-going community, as well as to grow our connections

Meet Samuel



Since the beginning of this school year, we've had the huge privilege of having Samuel Ephrald as our part-time pastoral worker at Via. Samuel graduated from Tyndale this past July, and has been a part of Via from its very beginning, and has been a huge help to us in many, many ways. He is originally from South India, but grew up mostly in the Middle East before going to university in Malaysia. His father is an Anglican minister now living in the Netherlands, where he serves as the rector of a church in Eindhoven, near the Belgian border. Samuel is pursuing ordination with the Anglican Diocese of Europe, of which Via is a part, and is seeking to discern what form his ministry will take in the future. He has strong gifts in organization, a real heart for people, and a servant attitude, and we are so privileged to have him serving with us this year, especially in view of our being away for several months on account of home assignment. Samuel served as the coordinator for the Alpha Course, and will be serving as the leader for the new home group which is about to launch. We thank God for Samuel, and for the privilege of partnering with him for the gospel. We appreciate your prayers for him as he serves at Via this year.

within the church. We appreciate your prayers for Via while we are on home assignment, and particularly for those covering for us to some degree while we are away: the leadership team, our pastoral worker Samuel (see above), and the Rev. Henry Baldwin, who is coming over from the U.S. with his wife to serve as interim rector (and will be living in our home).

Cathie continues to push things forward on the school front, and we really appreciate your prayers for this, as every step feels like a huge challenge. Right now the biggest issue is registering as an organization with the Dutch government, as there is continuing back-and-forth and slow progress with the lawyer who is doing this for us. Please pray also that a suitable location would be found quickly. We are so thankful for the board who have come alongside Cathie—pray that they would be able to step up their involvement while Cathie is in Australia.

Family News

As we write this, we are getting ready to begin our home assignment in Australia in December. We are looking forward to this wonderful opportunity to reconnect with friends, family, and supporters, and to seeing many of you in person over the months ahead; we appreciate your prayers for this time to be fruitful, and led by the Lord in every way. Please pray also for the whole process of leaving and coming back again—for our commitments and relationships in the Netherlands, and for our children's continued schooling throughout.

Thank you so much for your prayers, love and support!

Give thanks

- for continued good health, especially Josiah's recovery from a head injury
- for the provision of a car during our time in Aus
- for a very fruitful semester of teaching for David
- for a good team in place to lead Via in our absence
- for God's work in lives during the Alpha Course
- for progress on registering the new Christian school
- for renewed joy in our walks with the Lord

Please pray

- for us to leave well in every facet of our lives here in the Netherlands
- for those leading Via church in our absence, particularly Henry Baldwin, the interim rector
- for the on-going follow-up with those who attended Alpha
- for a fruitful and encouraging home assignment —in particular, that we may minister to those who minister to us by supporting us
- for a quick resolution to the school registration, and provision of a location
- for us to be filled with God's peace in all that He calls us to do!

From David, Cathie, Annabelle and Josiah

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