

January 2026, Michael & Rani Grivas-Allison



**Michael and Rani Grivas-Allison**

*with Alexi (3)  
Serving the Lord in Belgium*



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Dear Friends,

**Happy new year!** ☀

**Thank you for praying for us** over the last month as we've wrapped up 2025 and entered the new year. 🙏

As you know, January can be a funny time, and perhaps doubly so here with the cold and the dark. **However, we've been pleasantly surprised that over this last month, God seems to have taken us just a little deeper into the good work He's prepared for us to do here.** We hope you're encouraged to read of some of this below and spurred on to keep praying with us as we continue to discover what it means to serve Jesus faithfully here.

**Please do continue to pray for us in these last three months (!) before we return to Australia for Home Assignment. That God might bear fruit in us, in those we minister with and to, and for His Kingdom in Belgium.**

With love in Christ,

Michael & Rani

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**'Au revoir' 2025...et 'Bonjour' 2026!**

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**Thank God for the opportunity to celebrate Christmas with a few friends from church and the GBU.** It was a very cold day outside, but as you can see we were warm and filled! It has taken us a while to get the hang of hospitality here and to have the confidence to do it in French. However, we continue to be struck by how appreciative (and sometimes desperate) people seem to be to have a space to talk openly about life and faith and to be invited 'in' in a culture which can often feel quite closed. **We would love for you to pray that God would help us to grow our capacity for hospitality as a family,** and to bring us a steady stream of opportunities to reflect in ordinary ways the extraordinary welcome of Christ.

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**Thanks for praying for our friendship with James, Matt and Michaela** (James is Alexi's bestie from school). In the last few months, they have become close friends and a real blessing to us as people we see regularly and can share life with. We talk often about faith together, as Mic is a strong Catholic. However, it can sometimes feel like we're using the 'same words' but talking about different things! **Please continue to pray for this family and for opportunities to speak of the close and confident relationship we can have with God through Christ.**

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**Over the last month Alexi made his Christmas choir debut** (though no actual singing occurred). **We have also been invited to be more involved at church**, particularly through Bible-teaching on Sundays and in the women's ministry. We give thanks for the trust this represents and for the precious opportunity to open God's word with people. As always, **please pray for our courage and humility** as we continue to figure out the public-teaching space both culturally and language-wise. **But also for our wisdom and gentleness** as we navigate these conversations in a season where our church is feeling stretched without a pastor and with a number of people leaving over the last few months.

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**A request:**

🚗 Do you have a car we could borrow? 🚗



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CMS generously provides accommodation for us while we are on Home Assignment, however **we are currently putting out feelers for the lend of an *automatic car* to drive between May-August this year**. This will enable us to visit our supporting churches, spend time with family in the Blue Mountains and Nowra, and get around the sprawling city that is Sydney! **If you have a car you might be willing to lend, we would love to hear from you.**

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#### Upcoming dates...

- 2 Feb - **re-launch of GBU activities** with students
- 8 March - **Michael giving a mini-sermon** at church for the Lord's supper
- 14 Feb - **Hérauts** (GBU annual conference)
- 2,3,5 March - **Rani speaking** across GBU groups ('Why doesn't God do something about injustice?')
- 6-7 March - **CMS Pastoral visit**
- End of April - end of August 2026 - **Home Assignment**

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🙏 Please thank God...

- **For His amazing welcome to us through Jesus**, which moves us to welcome others (Rom 15:7)
- **For steadily growing trust, ability and opportunity** to proclaim His Word at church and GBU.
- **For His generous gift** of friendship.

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🙏 Please ask God...

- **For good health in February** (in the past, this is the month sickness has hit hardest).
- **To work powerfully for His Kingdom in Belgium** through GBU's Hérauts conference.
- **For some great gospel opportunities** in our relationship with James and His parents.
- **To provide a suitable car** for us to drive while on Home Assignment.

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*“Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the Lord.  
“Though your sins are like scarlet,  
    they shall be as white as snow;  
though they are red as crimson,*

*they shall be like wool."*  
Isaiah 1:18

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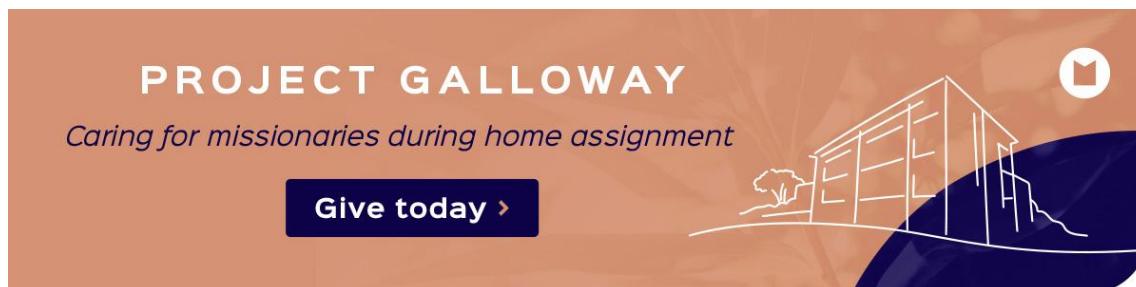
*From Michael and Rani*

[Say 'hello' or let us know you've prayed for us!](#)

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### **Project Galloway**

At the beginning of 2025, CMS purchased a block of 11 units on Galloway St in North Parramatta, to be used for worker housing. The first workers on Home Assignment have now moved in. We are excited that CMS workers will be able to live in community while on Home Assignment and share the joys and challenges of being away from location. Will you prayerfully consider giving to this \$8 million project? To find out more or to make a donation, please go [here](#).



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### **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.

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