

May 2026, Michael & Rani Grivas-Allison



## Michael and Rani Grivas-Allison

with Alexi (4)

*Serving the Lord in Belgium*



Dear Friends,

**Thank you for your prayers for us over this past month.** As students enter into study-mode before exams and the end of the academic year rapidly approaches, we find ourselves prayerfully looking ahead to the summer and how to best use this next season.

**As we shared in our previous newsletter, we are in the process of navigating conversations about our future service in Belgium with the GBU.** In one sense, 'knowing what's next' feels particularly key to stewarding these next few months well as we prepare for the new academic year, maternity leave, and home assignment. However, we are also aware that **God is very good at working through all seasons** (including 'in between' ones!) for His good purposes in and through us!

**Please pray with us** that God continues to open doors over the summer for our **fruitful service of Him** here in Brussels, that He would help us to **'keep our spiritual fervour'** (Rom 12) as we seek to grow in love for Him and people, and that **He would make clear His future direction of us.**

With deep thanks for your prayer, care and partnership in Christ,

Michael & Rani

## May moments...



Michael recently **preached at a retreat for volunteers and staff of Le Bon Livre** (Belgium's protestant bookstore/charity) and enjoyed getting to know brothers and sisters from around Wallonia and Brussels. **An invisible language-learning blessing** here is that he has now started writing talks directly into French (i.e. not translating from English)... a pretty big milestone as a speaker!



Rani recently **preached at our church's monthly women's brunch** (a lively and diverse group of women who love the Bible, mostly several decades her senior!) It was a joy to see their enthusiasm for a more interactive teaching style and very special to be **gifted with a Huguenot cross** afterwards (commonly worn by French-speaking protestants in Europe)...which felt like a bit of a 'we welcome you' moment.



**The GBU group at Brussels East (Alma) recently had it's last official meeting.** It was a joy for Rani and colleague Léon (who has pioneered the group) to hear student responses when asked to share **1) what they appreciated about the GBU this past year** (including things like: 'realising I can talk to people about Jesus', 'our times of prayer together', 'a space to talk about religion', and 'grasping more of my freedom in Christ'), and **2) what they'd like to see God do in the future** (the almost

universal response was more time together and more visibility on campus...great signs of life!) **Please pray particularly for Léon** (and Rani's wise collaboration alongside him) as he considers what the next stage of missional growth for this group looks like in the new academic year.



**Pictured above:** a miscellany of May things...including the culturally-insightful experience of partaking in our church's 'spring cleaning' day (apparently the first in about 14 years...) and sorting through the treasures hidden in our rabbit-warren building...including this old map marking where church members live!

Unrelatedly, the weather in Brussels is still quite chilly as we wait for summer, but we've decided to call the beginning of ice-cream season, to everyone's happiness.

### **Upcoming dates...**

- **May 24** - Michael giving meditation at church.
- **May 28 - June 2** - short family holiday.
- **19 June** - GBU picnic and formal end of activities for the year.
- **1 October** - baby Grivas-Allison due.
- **December '26 - April '27** - Home Assignment.

### **Please thank God...**

- **For His work in the diverse group of students at Brussels East** and the missional momentum He seems to be building among them.
- For **Bible-teaching opportunities** and **the trust** they represent.
- **For the opportunity to take a short family getaway** after a stretching few months.

### **Please ask God...**

- To bring **Sebastian** (the young Belgian guy Michael is reading Mark with) to a saving, personal faith in Him.
- **For continued grace, courage and wisdom** as we keep navigating conversations with the GBU about our future service in Belgium.
- **To bear much fruit** in our lives, character and ministry as we extend our first term in Belgium to the beginning of December.

*"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."*

Romans 12:9-13

*From Michael and Rani*

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**We're so thankful for your partnership with us to see a world that knows Jesus!**

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