

December 2025, Michael & Rani Grivas-Allison



Michael and Rani Grivas-Allison

with Alexi (3)

Serving the Lord in Belgium



Dear Friends,

Here in Brussels, we're in the thick of Christmas celebrations and end-of-year gatherings, with many great moments to connect with people before they disappear into the holidays (and students into exams). 🎄 🍷 🎁

When the moment comes to wish each other well, the standard line here is, "**bonnes fêtes!**" (literally, "happy holidays"). However, we've come to take a certain stubborn pleasure in replying with a big smile and a "**Joyeux Noël!**" ('Merry Christmas', or literally, 'joyful birth!'). 🧑 🌞

In a season where we remember that Jesus is indeed "**good news of great joy for all people**" (Luke 2:10), and wait with longing for the day when he "**will stand as a banner for the peoples**" (Isaiah 11:10) we are so thankful for your partnership with us as we keep stubbornly, joyfully **labouring to keep holding out that good news and equipping university students to do the same.**

Below we've included some **overheard snippets** of things we've heard both believing and non-believing students say this last month, which are just a small glimpse of how God has been at work and gracious answers to your prayers.

We are incredibly humbled and spurred on by, and thankful for your Gospel partnership with us over this past year

Thank you! And Joyeux Noël!

Michael & Rani

Some overheard snippets and glimpses of God at work in GBU this month...

"I have a Protestant friend who is very philosophical. Whenever we talk, she always finds a way to link it back to God. I really like this way of thinking. I'm definitely coming back to GBU in February."

"My family is Catholic, but not practising. But I've become interested in God and I've started praying and reading the Bible."

"I liked the talk, but I felt angry while I was listening. Why does God allow terrible things to happen to us? Why doesn't he provide a way out?"

"I invited my friends to come to the GBU Christmas event. One said 'yes, if it's games, no if it's to do with the Bible'. But the other one is really interested and has been encouraging our other friends to come".

"It's been so helpful for me that we've been looking at the theme of satisfaction in Colossians in GBU. Here in Brussels, my life is not as full as it used to be and God has been showing me that my satisfaction, my value and my identity really is found in what I have in Christ."

"When I first read the passage [to prepare to lead a Bible study] all I could see was a list of to-dos. After we chatted about it together, I could see Jesus everywhere and at the centre."

"Everything I've learned in the GBU - that we can have assurance of salvation, the fact that people need Christ, the importance of talking about Jesus with people around us, has really helped me to take courage in the good news!"

And some snapshots to go with...



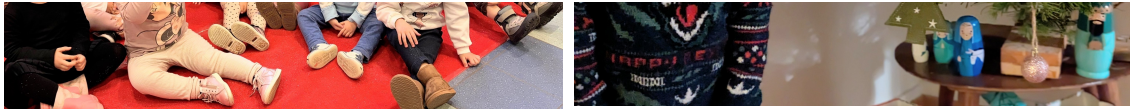


Above: flyering for our evangelistic Christmas event at GBU Brussels South; the night itself (which included at least five students who came from receiving a flyer and many more guests).



Above: Michael with some GBU men on a cold Brussels Saturday, filming for our Hérauts conference in February; food prepared by students for our Christmas event.





Above: Alexi's Christmas season, so far featuring the yearly visit from St Nicolas at school, a very beloved dinosaur Christmas jumper, and (not pictured) some serious enthusiasm for exclaiming that Christmas is all about Jesus.

Upcoming dates...

- 22 Dec - 2 Jan - **Christmas break & short family holiday**
- 2 Feb - **re-launch of GBU activities** with students
- 14 Feb - **Hérauts** (GBU annual conference)
- End of April - end of August 2026 - **Home Assignment**

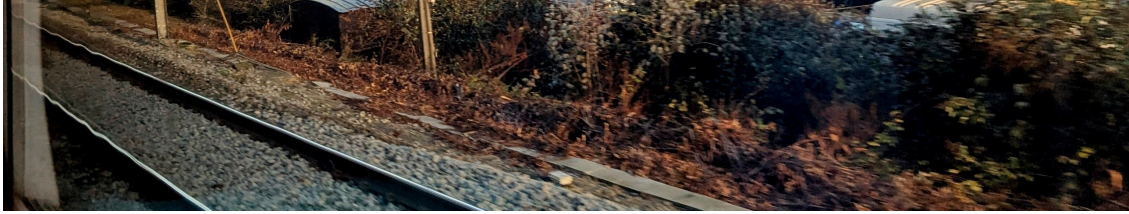
Please thank God...

- For **opportunities to invite students** to consider the true joy of Christmas.
- For a steady stream of **good learning moments** for us as we continue to grow in our understanding of the GBU ministry, team, and students.
- For the **opportunity to take a break as a family** after a busy and stretching few months.

Please ask God...

- **To work powerfully in the students who visited GBU for our Christmas events**, stirring their hearts to consider Christ over the break and bringing them back in February.
- **For rest and godly wisdom** over the break as we reflect on the last four months of starting GBU ministry and prayerfully look ahead to how best serve and grow in our remaining time before Home Assignment.
- **To direct, equip and encourage our church** as we continue without a pastor (and likely for some time yet).





From Michael and Rani

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

*"In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious."
Isaiah 11:10*



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](#).

PROJECT GALLOWAY

Caring for missionaries during home assignment

Give today >



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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