October 2026, Michael & Rani Grivas-Allison

CMS

Michael and Rani Grivas-Allison

with Alexi (4) and Zipporah (0)
Serving the Lord in Belgium

Dear Friends,

We give thanks to God for the flood of support, words of encouragement, and assurances of prayer that we received in response to our latest newsletter, in which we shared our recent, painful decision to finish up as GBU staff.

God has kindly been answering your prayers in all kinds of ways since we wrote, including raising up people here in Brussels to encourage us, listen to us, and to mourn and rejoice with us in the extremes of this season. **From both the distance of Australia and here 'on the ground', it has been a tangible reminder that God loves to love through people.**

Thank you so much for your trust and support as you continue to walk with us through this season. We ask you to pray that God would help us to finish this term of service well and that in partnership we might humbly **seek a 'Brussels that knows Jesus' right up until we get on a plane at the beginning of December.**

With thanks for your partnership,

Michael and Rani

Welcome Zipporah!

During a time of much change, we give special thanks to God for **the arrival of our daughter Zipporah who was born safely and healthy on the 23 September.** Her name means 'little bird' or 'sparrow' in Hebrew, which for us is a beautiful reminder of Jesus' famous words, *"so don't be afraid, you are worth more than many sparrows"* . We pray that Zipporah would walk in this truth all her days, and that it would indeed give her courage in whatever she faces in life. So far she is an alert, calm baby and (as you can see) spends most of her awake-time fixing us with her deep, curious gaze. We are all enjoying her immensely, Rani is recovering well, and we thank you for kindly praying for her arrival!

Pictured above: we are thankful to God for many forms of practical love as we have welcomed Zipporah, and particularly that Alexi is blossoming as a proud and caring big brother.

Loving the saints at 'Rue du Moniteur'

In God's kindness, the combination of our decision to finish with the GBU and our wait for Zipporah's arrival has opened **the opportunity for Michael to serve our church family in small ways** through pastorally getting alongside a few men and **in particular, through preaching.** This has been a small but real way to love the saints at 'Rue du Mon' (as it is affectionately known), particularly as they continue into a third year without a pastor and in a context where simple and faithful Bible teaching (even with the rough edges of a second language!) elicits comments like, *'wow, what a steak!'* and '*thank you so much for not just telling us what to do, but preaching out of our union with Christ'.*

Please pray that God would help us to encourage our church by pointing to Christ right up until we leave Brussels.

Pictured above: preaching on a Sunday, time with a family who have been a great encouragement to us, a group shot at church camp, and catching up to send off a member of our church, Loïc, as he moves to Germany.

The next month...

As we prepare to fly back to Sydney at the beginning of December, the next month will be a combination of life-as-normal, passport admin and medical appointments for Zipporah, packing up our apartment, saying goodbyes, continuing to seek God's will for the future, and sinking our spiritual roots deep into Christ as we prepare to dial-up this season of transition. **We would love your prayers that God would help us to leave well** (we have learned over the years that this mainly looks like giving thanks to Him and to people), for **His special shepherding of Alexi** as he leaves his school, our apartment, and his impressive array of little mates, and for **His help to 'be where we are'** up until we get on a plane.

Pictured above: we give thanks for an unusually fast processing of Zipporah's application for Australian citizenship, which included official pics at 6 days old (!); Alexi and Rani recently went up in the 'Brussels Eye' and it was a comforting reminder of God's sovereign, loving gaze over the people of Brussels.

🙏 Please thank God...

- **For creating Zipporah in His image** and for her safe arrival.
- **For the opportunities He has given Michael** to serve the people of our church and proclaim Christ.
- **For His generous love** shown to us through our partners in Australia (you!) and friends, neighbours, and other believers in Brussels as we have both grieved and rejoiced.

🙏 Please ask God...

- **To help us give thanks** to Him and to people in this season of transition.
- **For His provision in practical matters** - health, leaving logistics, a passport for Zipporah, routine for our kids amidst preparations.
- **That He would bless our leaving** in ways that strengthen and comfort us, and point both us and others to Christ.
- **For a Brussels that knows Jesus.**

"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."

Matthew 10:29-30

From Michael and Rani

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!

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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