



Michael and Ariette Robinson

July/August 2022

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you all once again in the precious Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We hope you are all keeping well spiritually and enjoying the Lord's presence. The Psalmist writes (Psalm 65v9-10) : 'You visit the earth and water it, You greatly enrich it; The river of God is full of water; You provide their grain, For so You have prepared it. You water its ridges abundantly, You settle its furrows ; You make it soft with showers, You bless its growth.' This is a Psalm of praise to the Lord God for His salvation and providence, including provision of water for the soil. As I write this letter, we're going through a very hot and arid spell of weather. Local farmers here are temporarily prohibited from fetching water from local ponds or canals to water their soil. How many of them ever think about praying to the Lord God for some much needed rain? The same goes for many people around us who seem so indifferent to spiritual things and the goodness of the Lord. Yet we, too, need showers of spiritual blessing from the Lord to refresh our own souls and produce His fruit from our labours. May the Lord give us all needed grace to serve Him in this corner of His vineyard.

The church in De Panne

Lots of churches have been severely tested over the last two years and in De Panne we're still feeling some aftereffects from the Covid era. Four or five church members still haven't returned to church, yet we've had 'live' services again since April 2021. Please pray for the Lord's wisdom for us as we follow up those people. On the positive side, some people have come to church recently whom we hadn't seen for a few years. We're also thankful to the Lord that the recent annual church members meeting proceeded peacefully. We pray that the atmosphere in the fellowship will continue to stabilise.

Please pray for the Lord's blessing and anointing of His Spirit on all our activities and endeavours to reach lost souls. Apart from the regular Lord's Day service, these include the weekly prayer meeting and Bible study, Sunday School, monthly women's meeting, monthly coffee morning, monthly children's club, and monthly Bible study for French speakers. The church website revision is still in progress, but we hope to complete this during the summer.

Our young people

We have mentioned a number of our young people in recent prayer letters and we continue to pray for them. Benjamin and Fien are a young couple both aged around 30 and they have two young children. We pray for them in their walk with the Lord and hope that they will be able to take on more responsibility in the church over time. Lucas (aged 20) is another young man of whom we have high hopes. In the month of July, he will be co-leading a Christian camp organised by a youth organisation. We pray that the experience will be a blessing to him. Sadly, Wendy (aged 24) has resumed her relationship with an unbelieving man and seems to be drifting away from church again. Brecht (aged 27 and married to a church member) continues to attend church regularly and we long for his conversion.

We do, however, have one big concern regarding some of our young people. Like so many young people in this digital age, they like to look things up online, but we're not always entirely happy about some of the online resources which they consult. Please pray for the Lord to grant us wisdom as we talk with them about these things.

Plans for the summer

Summer is a time when, generally speaking, the weather is warmer and drier and more people go outdoors. After two summers of semi-lockdowns and uncertainty, we need to make more use of this time of year to reach people. We are having a special Praise Evening in church on Saturday 16 July. That event may well be history by the time you read this letter, but we do hope to meet at least a few local people on that evening. We're also having a stall on the street market of Monday 15 August (a public holiday in Belgium). This is usually an annual event, but it was disrupted by Covid. It may already be too late to plan any other 'special activities' for summer 2022, but that doesn't stop us from looking ahead with ideas for summer 2023, Lord willing, and our regular evangelism continues in any case. We plan to have a couple of weeks holiday once again in Germany in late July and early August. We hope for a peaceful and restful holiday to help us recharge our batteries.

Summary of prayer points:

1. We praise and thank the Lord as always for His goodness and daily grace and strength.
2. We thank the Lord as the atmosphere within the church fellowship is gradually improving.
3. We pray for wisdom for Michael as he follows up church members who have been long-term absentees.
4. We continue to pray for our young people in their various needs: that Benjamin and Fien will continue to grow in the Lord and be able to take on more responsibility in the church over time; this is also our prayer for Lucas; we pray for Wendy that the Lord would touch her heart to return to Him; we pray for the conversion of Brecht.
5. Please pray for the Lord's blessing on all our regular activities and special activities to reach others.
6. Please pray for wisdom for us as we try to help our young people to develop more discernment in their use of Internet resources.
7. Please pray for our physical health and strength, especially for Ariëtte. The hospital at Ypres still hasn't recommenced with the hydrotherapy, so Ariëtte has had to miss that for over two and a half years now.

Whether you stay at home in the summer holidays or travel to another destination, may the Lord keep you all safe and grant you all needed grace and strength sufficient for each day. We thank you once again for your faithful prayers!

Yours warmly in Christ,

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