## **Bonins in Belgium**

latest news from Blair & Dina Bonin

advancing the purpose of Christ in European university communities

Dear friends,

During this end-of-year season of reflection, we are so thankful to y'all, our supporters, for believing in the "Long-Haul Strategy"! This very thought came to mind recently when a former student from the Netherlands sent us a note after having been named to the national leadership team of one of the groups affiliated with "Students for Christ-Europe". It simply said, "I am honoured to be part of the SFC leadership family! Who would have thought that [would happen] when I attended SFC Connect [annual student ministry training conference] as a student and new believer over 5 years ago."



The Connect '13 student training event group photo.

The "long-haul strategy" is the vision that God gave us when He called us to embark on the journey of integrating ourselves into the "fabric" of a society with a language, culture and worldview quite different from our own. The idea is that, over time, with prayerful perseverance, the faithful building of relationships and consistent training, a sphere of influence would be built, resulting in lasting fruit for Christ's Kingdom in the hearts of people, particularly students. That was 18 years ago, this month of November.

And as we look back and read the words like those above from alumni and hear the voices of current students relate what the ministry of "Students for Christ" means to them, we cannot help but bask in the glow of God as He builds His Church.

As we are traveling the roads of the USA during this year to report on the ministry to the universities of Europe, we also issue the challenge to be Kingdom-minded, reminding our friends and supporters how essential their partnership is to the "long-haul strategy" that God has planted in us. For this reason we can confidently ask you to give to a cause that is much bigger and more impacting than ourselves and what we might see this side of eternity. Would you consider: a one-time, year-end gift? and/or a new monthly commitment? or a cost-of-living increase in your current giving? All gifts are tax-deductible and can be implemented by simply typing s1.ag.org/bonin into your internet browser.



Running a 5K for missions at one of our "long-haul", missions-minded churches.

We personally don't know a better way to spend our lives! And we thank you for your strong hand of partnership in this "long-haul strategy"!

## Family Matters

After 3.5 years of university studies, **Callie** (22), our eldest, is obtaining her bachelor's degree this December as one of the top ten Business Management graduates of LSU. One week later, she is getting married and moving to Nashville! **Claire** (20) has been actively involved in Chi Alpha campus ministry this semester at TCU while matriculating through studies at Southwestern Assemblies of God University, Waxahachie, TX. **Evangeline** (17), our high school senior, is scouting out possibilities at various post-secondary institutions for classical ballet programs which she hopes to use in arts ministry. **Christopher** (15) and **David** (13) are enjoying a season of honing their music skills (guitar and drums) and pulling for their Louisiana sports teams, the LSU Tigers and New Orleans Saints. **Josiah** (almost 7) is reading like a champ, singing like a bird and has joined a winter basketball league. And last but definitely not least, **Blair & Dina** are celebrating a "*long-haul*" milestone: their 25th wedding anniversary in December.

HAPPY, THANKFUL THANKSGIVING & a MERRY, BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL!

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