

BONINS IN BELGIUM

Latest News from Blair & Dina

Autumn 2019

AGWM



Going and Sending

In the year 2000 A.D., amid on-going preparations for possible worldwide computer outages and rumors that a certain Tolkien trilogy was finally coming to the big screen, we arrived on the campus of Louvain-la-Neuve to replant a ministry to university students. We had heard of the Smith family, Bob & Lucille, along with their 3 children, who had lived there in the 1980s. We met their son Kevin in 1996 while he was on a 2-year assignment to Belgium and listened to his stories of growing up in Africa & Belgium. They had planted a church along with an outreach to students which gathered at the **Centre Agape**. However, after a few years, the Smith family was forced to return to the US after Bob's cancer diagnosis and subsequent passing.

Before we began, we were given the name of a former student from the Centre Agape days. Blair met with Robert who shared that, yes, he had been a part of the ministry as a student and had been praying since the Smiths' departure for God to call someone to re-pioneer the work. Robert's two sons, now students themselves, could be part of this ministry that would become **Students for Christ-Belgium**. We gladly accepted their help - and the wooden sign (*pictured, right*) - that symbolized the continuation of the work begun so many years before.

Fast forward 20 years to last month. We had the privilege of participating in the Missions Festival at Northland Cathedral in Kansas City, MO, where Kevin Smith and his wife Taurina now pastor. During the Sunday evening service, Blair shared how the Lord has continued to move in the lives of students on the campus where the Smith family laid a foundation decades earlier. Right on cue, when the image of the Centre Agape sign was projected on the screen, Josiah slipped in from the back of the sanctuary with the sign in hand and presented it to Pastor Kevin (*pictured, right*). In doing so, we wanted to honor the memory of Bob & Lucille Smith who served by GOING, as well as Pastors Kevin & Taurina who continue the work of the Kingdom by SENDING & PRAYING.

Speaking of Senders...

This past week, we had an opportunity to visit San Angelo, TX and the Chi Alpha (XA) group at Angelo State University during their Missions Week. We became friends with campus pastors Krystopher & Katie Scroggins when they served with **SFC** in the Czech Republic, so we knew they were passionate about missions. How exciting it was for us to see that passion instilled in their student group! Each day, we met with XA leaders & students who wanted to know more about what we do, had an interest in participating in an upcoming missions trip, and/or sensed a call to serving overseas for a year or more! At the end of the evening service where Blair preached on the Mission of God in the earth, over 30 students responded to a call to cross-cultural missions and more than \$5,000 was received in the offering that will go to ministries in Europe & Eurasia.

Our travel schedule is about to pick up significantly, including a much-anticipated Christmas trip to KY where our Bonin tribe will ALL be together. We need the Lord's continued protection and provision as we share about His work in Europe. **Thanks for praying and faithfully partnering with us!**



Nath, Annayiz and Davida (son of Robert)



Northland Cathedral missions service



Dessert & Missions night at Angelo State XA