

le Bulletin Bonin

Spring 2004

Encouraging

Michael, a Christian student from Flanders, the Flemish (Dutch)-speaking region of Belgium, decided to study in Wallonia, the French-speaking region of Belgium, to do what he could to help bring unity to this divided country. Feeling isolated and discouraged with learning French, Michael prayed that God would help him find other Christians. One day, as he was sitting on a park bench at the University of Liège, Therèse, a member of the SFC group there, passed by singing a Christian song in English just loud enough for him to hear. He realized too late that God was answering his prayer because by the time he got up the courage to approach her, she was gone! He begged God to give him another chance and the rest of the week he searched everywhere for Therèse. You can probably guess the rest of the story. Sure enough, God allowed their paths to cross again, and this time Michael did not hesitate to introduce himself. He is now plugged in to SFC-Liège, very happy with his new-found friends, and encouraged in his walk with God.



Michael



Patrizia

Svetlana grew up in Russia and was taught Atheism at school. She met Erica, our missionary associate, in a French class they were taking together. They became friends, but with Svetlana's one condition: "Don't talk to me about God." After months of being around people who loved God and showed love to her and her family, she is now saying, "I've been looking for something to believe in all my life, and I've finally found it."

Evangelizing

Svetlana gave her heart to the Lord during our recent Alpha course and is now evangelizing others! An exchange student from Italy, Patrizia attended a concert we sponsored in October. A self-proclaimed atheist, she was looking for friends and opportunities to practice her French and English, but was NOT interested in God. Several months later, Patrizia is one of the most faithful attendees at SFC-Louvain-la-Neuve. She still has not made a commitment to God, but consistently brings others to the meetings. Recently, Bity, her Muslim roommate from Senegal, told us that the "lasting peace" we were discussing during her first visit was exactly what she was looking for in her life.

Expanding

We have been praying since the beginning of SFC-Belgium for God to send us fellow harvesters, and it's happening! Lara came to faith in Christ through SFC when she was a student at Louvain-la-Neuve. She completed her law degree and worked for several months. Through a series of circumstances, she is now convinced of God's call for her to go into full-time student ministry and is now stepping out in faith, believing God for provision as she works as an intern with SFC. When Carmelo felt a burden for the young people in Belgium, he approached his pastor about ministry opportunities. His pastor, knowing the work of SFC, suggested he contact us. Little did Carmelo know that we had been praying for quite some time for God to send us workers in his region of Namur! He is now excited about what God is doing among students, following SFC training courses, and will be instrumental in re-launching SFC-Namur this fall. Erica Peebles, a missionary associate from Mississippi, has been with us since September, and is hoping to prolong her commitment. We are also expecting our newest Missionary Associates, Steve & Jennifer Cuttino from Texas, this summer.



Carmelo

Family Matters

Way back in 1995 when we launched our first "Bulletin Bonin," we included the "Family Matters" and "Prayer Matters" columns as a last minute throw-in to take up space. Now they are permanent fixtures, thanks to many of you who let us know that you actually read this stuff! Thank you for your interest in our family and for praying for us.

Callie (violin) and Claire (piano) recently completed their second music recital/exam for this year with excellent marks. Whew! Evangeline just turned 8 and is also doing very well in her music class. Christopher and David are anxiously awaiting drier weather so they can get outside to play ball — any kind of ball.

But first and foremost in everyone's mind is AMERICA. What to pack, where to go, what to eat when we get there. (And everybody said: crawfish etouffée!) We have come to the end of our four-year term and are feverishly preparing for our return to the USA this summer. It will be wonderful to have time with our family and friends that we miss so much, but we are very anxious to come back home and continue what we are doing. Therefore, we are believing God to help us raise our budget in 6 months instead of 1 year. (Yes, this is in the "Prayer Matters" column, too!) If you would enjoy a visit from us, we would love to come. Please contact us.



Prayer Matters

Even if you don't read any other section of this newsletter, thank you for taking the time to read and pray for these particular needs:

- ✦ **Safety** during our many upcoming travels while we're in the US
- ✦ We are believing God to help us raise our **budget** in six months instead of one year.
- ✦ Someone to help us with our **house in Belgium** during our absence
- ✦ Smooth transition to life in America for our **family**
- ✦ Quick, problem-free arrival and settling in of MAs **Steve and Jennifer Cuttino**
- ✦ **Lara**, as she takes a faith-step into full-time ministry
- ✦ **SFC-Belgium** students who will be taking a missions trip to the University of Louisiana-Lafayette to help with evangelistic outreaches. After two years of SFC hosting Chi Alpha teams from **ULL**, ULL will be hosting SFC!

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