



le Bulletin Bonin



ASSEMBLIES of GOD
WORLD MISSIONS

Joyeux Noël!

Fall 2007

Crisis in Belgium! Beginning of the End...

Belgium is in the throes of a national upheaval between the northern Flemish speakers and the southern French speakers. For over 170 days now (a record!), this tiny Western European kingdom has been without a government as the two sides cannot agree on a coalition of the parties. This stems in part from age-old undercurrents of resentment between two very different linguistic groups and mentalities. A schism could cause Belgium, as it has been known since 1830, to be divided permanently. A poll on the 6 of November 2007 in *Het Laatste Nieuws*, the largest newspaper in the northern region of Flanders, shows that a majority of Flemish (63%) do not expect Belgium to survive a national political crisis between the Flemish and the Walloons. We're not exactly sure ourselves how this will look 6 months from now, but thankfully our hope is not in the Belgian parliament, the monarchy or the European Union. We still plan on being where God wants us, pointing those around us to faith in God, not man-made institutions.



Annual retreat participants

...Or a new beginning? The government's threatened division only enhanced the symbolism of this year's *Students for Christ* Fall retreat. The invited speaker, a pastor from the Flemish city of Leuven, brought a team of 10 young people who led worship and ministered in Flemish and English with French translation. We can't think of a better way to enter the Christmas season than to have had the largest group of SFC students yet re-discover living as key players in the continuation of the **Book of Acts today!** (the theme of the retreat). Intense moments in God's presence were very impacting and re-invigorated the students resolve to live and walk in the power of the Spirit, becoming change agents in their part of this world. So even if it seems like the political upheaval could be the start of a national separation, there is a generation of young people in this country who are experiencing the bonds of unity through the love of Jesus. And therein lies Belgium's hope!

Bonins in Belgium dot com We regularly post ministry and family updates on our website. You'll also find information about financial support, sending packages, ministry descriptions, lots of photos and a recent article on the **24-hr bike race**. This was the 6th year that SFC has participated and the crowds expect to see the "Jesus bike belonging to the group that gives away free food" (physical and spiritual). Through this event and a subsequent evangelistic activity we are now in contact with one person who has taken a step to follow Christ, another who is interested in exploring what *Students for Christ* is all about and yet a third who attended our annual retreat at the end of November and is comprehending what a personal relationship with God really means.



Part of the 24-hr bike race team and 2007 theme "Super Jesus—Only Savior"

Family Matters

5/6 of our children are now in music school. Christopher and David started theory this year along with their instrument choices...guitar and drums, respectively. Claire and Evangeline recently began hosting two friends on Wednesday afternoons for an informal, conversational English get-together. Yanaëlle of Congolese descent is from our local church and Joachin from Chile is a new acquaintance. Callie is helping to coordinate the youth group's drama presentation for Christmas. And Josiah...now 11 months old is walking, cooing, and digging in everything within reach.



- ◇ Please pray for God's plan and will to prevail at this **critical juncture in Belgian history**.
- ◇ The **strength of the US dollar** to increase against the euro. Even European leaders are calling for regulation. The situation is past being a cause for concern; we must see relief in order to continue living and working here.
- ◇ **Two friends battling cancer:** Joseph (our former landlord from Ciney) and Hugues (the son of Blair's former language contact in Verviers)
- ◇ **Céline**, a student who recently confided to one of our female workers that she is lonely and searching. Pray that she will engage with Jesus through faith.
- ◇ We are currently reaching only about 120 students amongst a **national student population of more than 350,000** in institutions of higher education. *Students for Christ* is represented on only 4 of the 10 major universities in Belgium. We desire to see an *SFC* group on every campus!

Answers Matter too! You prayed with us for the following and God has answered: On September 1, with three applicants, we launched the first SFC Internship program designed to train campus leaders. This is the future of SFC-Belgium! Also, 2 SFCers from established groups have recently moved to the cities of Antwerp and Leuven (both in Flanders). They are open to spearheading new SFC group plants in those two localities! Keep praying that God will give them great favor and inspiration for their newly adopted cities.

Prayer Matters

For financial involvement:

AGWM - Europe Field Office
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Or [AGWM online donation webpage](#)

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