

# BONINS IN BELGIUM

advancing the purpose of Christ in European university communities



Fall 2008

## The intense desire to belong

During a recent prayer walk with other pastors and Christian leaders on the campus where we live at Louvain-la-Neuve, we were once again reminded of the innate desire of mankind to belong. We encountered the yearly phenomenon call “the baptism.” This is the “thing to do” among new students in which they are initiated into affinity groups through a hazing process that can include any number of humiliating acts all for the sake of being able to be counted a member of the group. (see photo) Acceptance is a very strong human need. This is especially true of the young person who has been touched deeply by the brokenness of the world in which we live and who may equally yearn for community. We believe our responsibility as Christians is to provide open faith communities through which those around us may find acceptance in Jesus and a sense of family in our midst.



### Ying's faith walk...and her new study tool

We met Ying at the Students for Christ training conference this summer. She's living and studying in the Netherlands and speaks of being a Christian only for the last few years. Originally from China and embarking on a journey with Jesus that was triggered by a conversation with a Chinese Christian who shared Christ with her at the university, Ying arrived in the Netherlands and began growing in her new found faith. She yearned for a good study Bible and even asked another Chinese believer where she might find one, only to be told that they were difficult to obtain and very costly. Yet God, who hears the prayers of our hearts even before they are pronounced, was working behind the scenes. Blair had received 3 Chinese study Bibles (Fire Bibles) a few years back and prayed that God would direct him to the persons destined to have them. Rummaging through his material during the training conference, the Holy Spirit prompted him to ask Ying, the only Chinese person attending, if she had a Chinese study Bible. You guessed it. Ying, astonished by the circumstances through which God “tracked her down” received a desire of her heart, and Blair, elated by the Holy Spirit's precision and impeccable timing, had the great joy of blessing a relatively new believer with a priceless gift.

## Family Matters

Blair is spending more time on the university campus, but this year, it's INSIDE the classroom. He signed up for a few theology courses this semester and even if the study has been a bit challenging, the interaction with the students in his classes has been good. Already, he has been able to share a bit with his partner for a recent project. She let him know that her best friend growing up is the daughter of an evangelical pastor and that she has been intrigued by her friend's faith that is more “personal” than her own. Please pray for Blair as he meets new students and adapts to a new schedule.

Our website has a few new articles with more news about our family and ministry, including updates about 2 summer weddings, the annual summer leadership training, the 24 hr bike race, and our recent vacation. Add [www.boninsinbelgium.com](http://www.boninsinbelgium.com) to your favorites and check back regularly for prayer requests, news items and family fun. Thanks for your support!

Blair and Dina and family

## Prayer Matters

Thank you for lifting up the following needs:

- \*for a meeting place for the group at Louvain-la-Neuve
- \*for the students we dialogued with at our tent during the recent 24hr bike race outreach

- \*the families of 3 dear friends who have passed away this year: Joseph, Gary and Joe
- \*2 students who recently decided to follow Christ at the group in Liège
- \*financial provision for our newest national SFC worker, Annayiz



### For financial involvement:

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