



BONINS IN BELGIUM

latest news from Blair & Dina
Winter 2024

AGWM

“*Les petits ruisseaux font les grandes rivières.*”

This popular French proverb roughly translates to “small streams make big rivers,” and aptly describes how small things can become larger and more powerful when joined together. The phrase can also have the connotation that perseverance in doing little things can result in great benefits. As we look toward 2024 and beyond, we can’t help but look back to see how God has made little things turn into huge blessings and how He has strengthened us along the way.

In 1995, we began schooling our 4-year-old daughter, Callie, at home as we prepared to move overseas. Twenty-eight years and six children later, we are in our final semester of home-schooling while Josiah finishes up his last high school credits. As we reflect on this chapter coming to a close, it is evident to see how the Lord was present with us in each of the **moments that make up the last three decades** of our family’s story. God has been faithful to bring us through the good days and bad, and this very often in spite of ourselves. We are grateful. **Thank you** for walking with us in this journey, and for **praying for Josiah as he finalizes some decisions for next year**. We also request **prayer as we face the reality of an “empty nest” and a new season with new ministry opportunities opening up for us**.



Along these lines, we are well into Year 1 of the five-year **transition to new leadership of Students for Christ - Europe**. As our organization has grown and become more European, it is apparent that SFC’s



SFC leaders representing 11 nations at our annual Prayer Weekend in Spain last month.

mission of reconciling students with Jesus will be better served with a Leadership Team. Our objective is to engage a core group of volunteers to help SFC reach its goals in five areas: administration, communications, networking, prayer, and training. Some of these things we’ve done pretty well while others have been more challenging so we are thrilled with the idea of growing SFC to the next “**big river**” stage of strength. Again, we ask you to **please pray for the conversations with key leaders** that we will be having in the next few weeks and beyond, **as well as for wisdom in putting systems in place that will aid in the transition**. We are not trying to rush into anything, but we also do not want to hinder forward motion of the mission and vision of *SFC-Europe*.

Finally, December 2024 will mark four years since we returned to Belgium for this term, and even longer since we were able to attend our mission agency’s summer renewal conference for global workers. Therefore, we will be **returning to the US this spring for a brief itinerary**, which will also coincide with **Dina’s mom’s memorial celebration** as well as **the wedding of our son, David**. This shortened trip will allow us to **return to Europe for CONNECT (our summer student ministry training conference)**. Our new budget for the next term comes with a new cost-of-living increase so with that in mind, we are asking our supporting churches and individuals to **please consider increasing your monthly giving amount by \$10 or more and/or sending a one-time offering** to propel and sustain our next ministry term in Europe and beyond, and for **praying for God’s continued provision** in this mission to which He is calling us. As the saying goes, “*les petits ruisseaux font les grandes rivières.*” **Your streams of prayer and finances are becoming a great river for the Kingdom, bringing spiritual transformation and growth in the lives of students, leaders, and others. Thank you!**

All for Jesus and His Kingdom,

Blair, Dina & Josiah

