



THE WEBER FAMILY Partnering with Belgians to Equip Belgians to Reach the World!

12 February 2005

Was our survey trip helpful? Praise the Lord, it was very helpful! Let us recount the ways that the Lord answered prayers and blessed us during the 18 days we spent in France and Belgium! One morning in France, I observed a car driving down the road even though the windshield was covered with frost except for a very small peephole that had been cleared of frost. This experience prompted me to think of an illustration that may help you understand the value of our survey trip:



An Illustration: *One winter morning you are getting ready to leave for work, yet have not considered the weather conditions. You exit your house only to find your car's windshield covered with a thick layer of frost. Before departing you take time to deal with the windshield to restore visibility so you can safely travel the roads to work.*

Our Situation: We completed our ministry internship and began to actively pursue ministry in our local church. We believed God called us to serve Him in missions and that He

had been preparing us to serve Him in Belgium. We made missions in Belgium our goal as a ministry destination, yet could not see clearly where to go or how to get there because of the "frost" of unanswered questions and lack of information. We had a passion to get there but had to deal with that "frost" before getting on the road to ministry in Belgium.

An Illustration Continued: *You get into your car to start the engine and turn the defroster on high in order to melt the icy frost on the windshield. As the engine warms and the heat from the defroster begins to melt the frost, you get out your scraper and clear away the frost so that you can see clearly.*

Our Situation Continued: We were accepted with Evangelical Baptist Missions and appointed to the field of Western Europe with an eye toward Belgium should God so lead. We headed out to many churches in the Fall of 2004 as we started our pre-field ministry engine. We shared our passions for ministry in Belgium and yet admittedly could not describe particulars of ministry in Belgium. As our pre-field ministry engines warmed up, the unanswered questions began to melt away as we studied, asked questions and researched ministry in Belgium.

THEN God put the Survey Trip tool in our hands to really clear away the uncertainties. God used our survey trip to France and Belgium as the means to answer so many questions and give us clarity regarding the ultimate destination and the road we need to take to get there. We met a Belgian church planter who invited us to return to work with him in the discipleship and church planting efforts of this baby church! Wow! A ministry opportunity in Belgium tailor-made by God is a right before and appears to fit us so well! Let's go!

Our Current Situation: Our engines are warmed up, the ice on our windshield is gone and we are ready to travel this pre-field ministry road on our way to Belgium where we believe God would have us serve Him in discipleship and church planting ministries. We now continue our search for faithful church and individual partners who will enable us to partner with Belgians to equip Belgians to reach the World!



Thanking God for your prayers,

Jonathan & Sarah, Warren

Details God enabled us to see clearly as a result of our Survey Trip:

1. **Entry into Belgium:** It is possible to get a visa for pastoral ministry in Belgium through the help of the Belgian Evangelical Mission which is recognized and established in Belgium.
2. **Ministry in Belgium:** Churches in Belgium (comprised of mostly first-generation Christians who have very little knowledge of the Bible) greatly need help in the area of discipleship. We could very effectively help these churches to see Believers established in their faith. A Belgian church planter invited us to return to help him develop the church and disciple believers!
3. **Language study in Belgium:** We will soon receive Dutch self-study materials so we can begin basic study in preparation for accelerated study at a university program in the city of Leuven. Proficiency can be attained in one year of intense study at this recommended language school.
4. **Cost of Living in Belgium:** US \$ weakness means that our monthly support needs to be \$ 5,400.
5. **Arrival in Belgium:** As soon as God supplies our support, we desire to move to Belgium to begin language and culture study! God has prepared us for Belgium! Let's get there!

General Praises:

- ⊕ Safety in all our travels by plane, train and automobile
- ⊕ Good health for all during the trip (except for a 24 hr flu bug that Warren and Sarah contracted BUT which actually helped Warren adjust to the time zone change)
- ⊕ Our schedule worked very smoothly and we were even able to add some key interviews without difficulty
- ⊕ Very profitable interviews with other church and mission leaders in France and Belgium
- ⊕ Hospitality of many people who hosted us in their homes and provided meals for us
- ⊕ Unexpected meeting with a Belgian church planter (Wily Tops) who invited us to his home for the weekend to attend services at their church plant in Nieuwerkerken (just 6 km from where I lived as an exchange student)
- ⊕ Invitation from Wily Tops to come minister alongside of him – so we can help the Nieuwerkerken church plant develop in areas of music, discipleship and church education AND so he can mentor me in the areas of outreach and church planting.

Specific Praises related to Trip Objectives:

OBJECTIVE 1: Meet EBM Missionaries in Northern France

God answered prayers by ... giving us great meetings with 3 missionary families in northern France during which we felt their passion for souls and observed their effective ministries. Praise the Lord for opportunities to meet fellow labors in Europe who will be of great encouragement to us when we minister in Belgium.

OBJECTIVE 2: Meet church leaders in Belgium to determine ministry needs and opportunities

God answered prayers by ... giving us a great meeting with leaders of the Belgian Evangelical Mission in which we learned of their church planting efforts. They described how more workers are needed in Belgium to strengthen existing churches through discipliship and plant new churches in the many needed communities of Belgium

OBJECTIVE 3: Introduce Sarah to Belgium culture and lifestyle

God answered prayers by ... making it possible to visit with many of Jonathan's friends and to stay in some Belgian homes where we observed their culture and lifestyle. However, there is still much to learn!

OBJECTIVE 4: Investigate language schools

God answered prayers by ... directing us to the best language school (located in Leuven) where we found out program specifics. We should be able to complete intensive language study in one year at relatively minimal cost.

OBJECTIVE 5: Investigate living details

God answered prayers by ... giving us contact with people who knew the cost of living and specific details about getting visas for entry into the country. We also were able to go "shopping" to find out costs of food and other basics essentials for living. With the increasing weakness of the US \$ our monthly support need will be close to \$5,400.