



The Antwerp Connection

May 2022

In a world where fashion always comes back in style, I decided that it was time for the “hold-in-your-hand” paper letter to come back in style too. I mean, how long has it been since you got real mail in your mailbox that wasn’t a bill? I know that we all get happy when a letter from the States arrives. It’s exciting stuff!

And with that in mind, we just wanted to let you know what has been happening on this side of the world. We still continue to do some the very same things you have come to expect from us. But we also have some new things going on too. We are still pastoring a small Arabic speaking church. Hary still has an evangelist’s heart. I, Janée, still have a teacher’s heart. We use those passions as best as we can to serve the Lord in the city of Antwerp and as far as Syria.

During our “Covid” years, we began to do a lot more things online. The advantage is that we are now seeing Arabic speaking people who live all over the world right there in our living room for daily prayer meetings, Bible studies and counseling.

The lockdown time also brought many Syrians living in Europe to think more about their home country. So, we joined with some believers living in the Netherlands to start **Mustard Seed Ministries**. Many people have committed to giving just 10 euro a month to provide support for Syrian ministers to work in Syria. It only takes about \$230 to support a family for one month. Currently, we have 10 full time ministers that began working within the last 2 years.

In April, Hary made a trip to Syria to encourage those ministers and the church that has felt the hard aftereffect of war. The country is living in a post war reality even though the war is not officially over. People are surviving on a salary of \$30 a month and being asked to pay as much as \$8 for one roasted chicken. Their spiritual and physical hunger is incredible. In Hary’s visit, he was able to introduce over 100 people to Jesus. And still the needs of his country weigh heavily on his heart.



And here in Belgium, my heart aches for children growing up in a post-Christian world. Protestant Christians only make up 1% of this nation. Most of those churches are so small that they don’t have enough workers to create a children’s program. So, in January, I began a monthly children’s club, Kingdom Kids. The focus is entirely on children. It is a safe place for them to play together, have snacks, hear about Jesus, sing and feel the love from about 10 volunteers who work with them each month. 30-40 children show up each time. They come from about 10 different churches and even some of the Muslim children who

go to the school where we host the club show up to hang out with their friends. Their joy about coming has increased my joy about working with children again.



And at the end of March our family moved...200 meters away. Why would we do something so crazy, you ask? Well, in 2018 we felt the Lord asking us to buy a large house to use as a church house. So, we did and God provided for us to pay for that house in cash as we emptied our savings and others, like you, gave generously to make that happen.

As a church, we met in that house for 2 years. But behind the scenes, I was battling the city for permits for a Christian activity to take place in that house. Every time I thought I had met the requirements, they added something impossible...like the fact that we have no land, only what the building sits on, and we were expected to have 7 parking spaces on our property. Impossible!

After that 2 years, a city inspector came to close our doors. They cited me with 2 sets of criminal charges and told us we had to return this building into a 1 family house. After 3 years of battling, we could see that we were cornered and the only way for the criminal charges to be dropped was for our family to move in.

The police have already come to verify our move and now we need to contact the city inspector to see if we can get the criminal charges removed from my name. In the meantime, we are now opening our large living room up to anyone who wants to pray, sing or study the Bible. We rent a hall in the girls' school for Sunday services at a wonderful price. And our old home is now a welcome house for those who need a temporary place to stay. In only a month we have hosted people from Egypt and Iraq.



Please continue to pray for us in this process with the city. And pray that God gives us clear direction for the future and a vision of how to work best in a post pandemic world. Thank you for all the many ways you have encouraged and supported us in this journey.

Blessings,

Janée, Hary, Phoebe & Maria-Grace

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