

*January, February, March 2025*

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# **ANDERSON UPDATE**

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## **Your Bridge to Flemish Belgium**

Dear praying pastors, friends, and family,

2025 is in full swing and with it came a lot of sick people for a couple months! It seems that every family in the church was hit at least once with some kind of bug, flu, or infection! Unfortunately, we even joined in on the 'fun'! Thankfully, most everyone is on the mend and we pray that this season's bugs are over!

Tom brought in the New Year at the hospital for his Sleep Apnea test. He was certain that he didn't sleep enough to get results, but praise the Lord, he did; diagnosis of Severe Obstructive Sleep Apnea. He basically stops breathing every minute... The process is very lengthy here in Belgium (almost a whole year from beginning till the final appointments in May. It took until Feb. 18, to meet with the lung specialist that orders all the extra tests for insurance purposes (blood work, EKG, X-rays, etc) as well as the machine. Tom finally got his CPAP on Friday (March 7th). After several nights using it, he's discovered that the mask they provided doesn't work quite right for him... so hopefully he gets another mask on Wednesday. After a month, he has to return for another overnight sleep test with the machine. Then his last 2 appointments are in May. Please pray that this will give him some rest so that he can continue doing what the Lord has called him to do... without being exhausted all the time!

There have been several 1st time visitors already this year! One of them is the unsaved Mom of one of the men in church! The search is still ongoing for a better building for the growing church. One of the men helped Tom out by hunting down parts and installing them in the broken lighting in 2 rooms! The projector for church has been on it's last leg for awhile, so we finally replaced it with a large screen t.v. for the service. The company sent some guys to install it but it was hung improperly. Eventually, they sent men from the store closest to us who refitted it with extra bracing and it is now hanging properly. Yay! The screen is much clearer than the old projector... so we are very happy with that!

Alan preached for the first time a few weeks ago. He did a good job and it is very encouraging to see people step up and serve in the church. This week, he has also started a 7 week Bible study after church on the Armor of God. There were 22 people there!!!

Another young man, volunteered to take over the church library to organize it and set up a check list so that we can keep better track of the books and videos that belong to the church.

Martin, who has grown up in the church, is now teaching the pre-teen boys! He has one student at the moment, but there are 2 others who come occasionally that might join. Pray that Martin will be encouraged in serving the Lord. He is also very helpful in double-checking the sermon translation for Tom!

Another Baptism is scheduled for the 1st Sunday in May! It is always exciting to see believers openly professing their faith at the North Sea!!!

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Toni has 2 big events in May. The first week of May she will be joining other missionary ladies in Austria for a Counseling seminar helping women counsel women. This year she will be bringing one of the ladies from church who is interested in Biblical counseling. Then, the last weekend in May is our annual Ladies retreat with churches in Belgium, France, and Nederland. Toni and the other missionaries have been busy planning and preparing since last years retreat, but the majority of the work is right before the retreat. It looks like we will have a good group of ladies from our church, which is very exciting!

Originally, we had a wedding scheduled to do here in Belgium on the 5th of July, but they have postponed it. This means that we are able to fly back at the end of June (which greatly reduces the amount of airline costs compared to July). That will give us a week or so to get over jet lag before we start getting things in motion for our furlough, and travel down to Joplin, MO for Rayna's wedding.

Rayna and Ash will be getting married on July 28th and it will be a themed wedding. For those interested, here is their wedding website... <https://www.zola.com/wedding/ashandraynaswedding> They are planning to live stream the wedding for anyone interested in watching online. Details can be passed along closer to the date for those interested.

We are still praying about transportation for furlough. Please pray with us that we can find an inexpensive solution! And please pray that we can get into some new churches to raise our support levels. If you are interested in having us present the field of Belgium in your church...or you know a church that is looking to take on new missionaries, please let us know. Several people have already messaged about having us come and speak and it would be great to fit your church in our agenda! Officially, furlough will be August through December. This will be the longest furlough (6 months) that we have taken in the 22 years that we have ministered here in Belgium. After Rayna's wedding, we will be traveling back to OH, so if you are on the path from Joplin to Columbus and want us in August, please reach out. We will be on the East Coast in the early fall and the plan is to be in Texas during the late fall. We hope to spend Thanksgiving with Toni's parents in Rosenberg, TX and then Christmas with Tom's mom in Galion, OH.

It brings a smile when we think of times together with many of you and we look forward to catching up with family and friends all along our furlough path! Thank you so much for your continued prayers, love, friendships, and support.

Love and prayers,

*Tom, Toni, and Erika*

*Your Bridge to Flemish Belgium*



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