

# ANDERSON UPDATE

## Your Bridge to Flemish Belgium

We are so grateful for all of you; our wonderful pastors, supporting churches, friends, and family!

Your prayers and support help us through the trials of ministering in another country and we are convinced that you will be blessed for your partnership.

Here is a great story of God working through your support. Dennis came to the Lord almost 2 years ago. After his mom and Alan started coming to New Hope Baptist Church, Alan and Katrien began to grow and they wanted to honor God by being legally married. Through that, Dennis started coming to church, got saved, and has been faithful and very outspoken in his walk with Lord. Being almost 30, Dennis had relationships in his past, but he said that he wanted to focus on his relationship with God before he started dating again and didn't date for 6 months. He wanted to find a wife that is a christian, who shares his values! This is very hard in Europe because there are so few christians and churches, and even fewer that preach the Word of God faithfully. God blessed him with Iryna. She is from Ukraine and is a believer who was already faithful in church. They were married "legally" in the Ukraine in November, but wanted to have a wedding among believers here in Belgium on Feb 21st. This was a beautiful and unique wedding. Tom and Iryna's pastor from Ukraine, Serhie, did the service in Nederlands and Ukrainian, with a bit of English in the vows. Please pray for them as a couple. It's hard enough for a young couple to navigate marriage when they are from the same country and speak the same mother tongue. With the Lords help they will work through the challenges that will arise from miscommunication!!! Also, pray for Iryna, that she will be able to adjust to the culture here in Belgium. It is not an overly welcoming culture and not at all family oriented like in Eastern Europe. Here are some pictures for you to see...



The church is very happy to have us back from furlough and is doing well, even though we lost a family while we were on furlough. Please continue to pray for the members as they grow, learn to step up, lead, and serve one another with love, patience, and compassion!

Erika is now with Rayna and her husband Ash in Galena, KS (Joplin, MO area). It has been strange without the girls and Toni has been affected a bit more than she thought with the empty nest, but we are happy that

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the girls can be together! Please pray for them both as they move forward with their lives: Rayna and Ash as a young married couple and “expecting” at the end of July!! Erika is glad to be with her sister and has been looking for a job. Thank you! And, please pray for them as they also really need a reliable vehicle.

Normally, we like to keep our reports upbeat but feel we need to share this with you. On a personal note, please pray for us! We already came back from furlough exhausted and a bit discouraged as we didn't gain any new supporting churches and we also didn't raise any funds for a replacement vehicle. (However, we did raise the extra funds to replace Tom's desktop that was too old to upgrade!) Anyway, these last 3 months have been some of the hardest we've had in Belgium in 22 years. The enemy is really throwing everything at us to discourage us. We came back from furlough to a home that had been taken over by a lady from our church that was allowed to occasionally use our house as a safe place when she needed to get away from her abusive husband. It took about 6 weeks to get all her things out of the house and we were sick most of that time. Within the first week of returning, we both started getting sick and developed bronchitis, then as we were getting over that, we both got the flu/covid which was worse than the bronchitis. Finally, we started getting over that and ended up with head colds. So, our first 2 months back were mostly spent being very ill. We had a blessing of being able to go to a short missionary conference and felt like we might be getting our feet back under us, because it was really geared toward struggles of missionary life. The other missionaries there were also going through tough times and we were able to encourage each other. Right after getting back from the conference, another family decided to “take a break” from church to explore more options... they want a feel good church. Please pray that they don't get involved in a Pentecostal church. And of course there are all the little hits that normally happen as well. We know that God is good and that He is working all things for His glory. We've lived it for many years, seen God work, and we teach it to others, but honestly it has been a real challenge to keep our focus where it needs to be. Pray that we will remain steadfast and that God will be glorified through these trials!

Other prayer requests: We do need to find a solution to our transportation need here in Belgium. In addition diesel is over \$10 a gallon now. Tom's Mom is 83, lives alone, and is struggling with her health. Please pray for her quality of life. Toni's parents both struggle with health problems but will be moving to Springfield, MO to be closer to Toni's 2 brothers and also about an hour from our girls. This is important as Dad's Parkinson's is getting worse. Please pray that God will smooth out the details of uprooting their life in Texas! And please pray for Rayna's pregnancy and our 1st grandchild!

We love and appreciate all of you. It was a blessing to catch up with many of you on furlough and we are grateful to those who housed us, fed us, loved on us, and supported us! And we wish that we could have had the opportunity to meet up with all of you!!! You are such a blessing and vital to our ministry here in Flanders! May God's grace fill your lives as you continue to serve Him!

Love and prayers,

*Tom, Toni, and Erika*

*Your Bridge to Flemish Belgium*

**[belgiumbound@gmail.com](mailto:belgiumbound@gmail.com) OR [belgiumbound1@yahoo.com](mailto:belgiumbound1@yahoo.com)  
Hoornstraat 12, 8340 Moerkerke, Belgium**

**Gospel Baptist Church, 5670 St Rt 19, Galion, OH - Pastor Steven Hodges**

