

Greetings from North Holland!

Thank you to those of you who joined us on October 23 in a day of prayer for Europe. To date over 13,000 prayers have been registered on the GEM website. We want you to know that your prayers are not in vain. Just after the day of prayer an article appeared in local newspapers over our Alkmaar red light district. The mayor (who is a believer) has refused to approve the renewal of the business permit for the largest prostitution organization in Alkmaar! (Remember that prostitution is a legal profession here.) Without that permit 85% of the prostitution business on the Achterdam (the Alkmaar red light district) would be shut down! The newspapers called it a death blow to prostitution in Alkmaar. The organization is accused of laundering money and pursuing other criminal activities under the cover of their prostitution permit. It is also asserted that many women are being forced to work as prostitutes for this organization. The mayor denied the permit renewal based on national policies and recommendations from a national bureau. The organization has filed an appeal and that is currently keeping the business going. Pray that this permit denial will not be overturned in appeal. Pray also for the women who would be put out of work as a result. There is a group of women who have ministered to these ladies for a number of years and we are praying that those relationships will now reap a harvest of women who are helped out of this profession and into a loving relationship with Jesus.

God is doing some great things in the Dutch Sign Language Bible project group. Terri and Marja had a wonderful meeting with the notaris on October 30. The notaris is a believer who supports our project and was very helpful in thinking through issues to make the statutes for the group (and potential non-profit foundation) the best that they can be. As we told you before, he also has offered the group a substantial discount for his services. Just after that meeting, however, another group member had a meeting with the director of Wycliffe Bible Translators - Nederland. The meeting was intended to discuss the potential of us using their office space free for our meetings. That was no problem at all, which is a blessing in and of itself. After that discussion, however, the director asked Lianne why we weren't simply seeking to become a project group under the auspices of Wycliffe. We had understood from other sources that it wasn't a possibility and hadn't pursued that type of contact with our national branch of Wycliffe. Now we have the national director offering us that possibility! That would mean that we wouldn't need to set up a separate foundation (saving lots of time, money and effort) and that we would also enjoy the name recognition of an organization that is recognized worldwide! We would also have an immediate way to raise funds that would be tax deductible (in Holland) for donors! So we have asked the notaris not to proceed with our statutes until we have a firm decision regarding Wycliffe....and as a blessing to us he has told us that if we don't continue with the statutes, he won't charge us for what he has done already! The Wycliffe Board of Directors meets just 4 times a year and 'just happens' to be meeting on November 25 and our group will be on their agenda! We have been asked to submit a list of questions for the Board from our side. The Board will discuss this possibility, provide us with answers to our questions about practical organization issues, etc. and let us know what they think. If they remain positive about the potential, then it will be up to our work group to make a final decision about either aligning formally with Wycliffe Nederland as

a project group or going ahead with setting up a separate foundation. Praise God with us for this possibility and for a notaris that is supportive and really working with us! Pray as the Wycliffe Board meets and as we consider this decision from our side as well. We all are seeking God's direction.

November is a month of focus on giving thanks. Since Thanksgiving is an American holiday, it is not celebrated here. The 27th is a normal work and school day for everyone. So we have chosen again this year to celebrate Thanksgiving on Saturday the 29th. We have 3 other couples joining us that evening...3 of our guests are believers and 3 are not. Turkeys are not so easy to come by here as in the US and definitely not as cheap! Normally we have to order a turkey about a week in advance. When we started asking around about prices they were through the roof! Gratefully, God allowed us to actually find a frozen turkey (small by American standards, but big enough to serve all our guests) that was almost 3 euros cheaper per kilo than the other prices we were quoted! So we have a turkey waiting in our freezer and are already thanking God for being able to get it cheaper than it looked like in the beginning. (Somehow substituting chicken just didn't seem right to us!)

Also along the theme of giving thanks...Terri was in charge of the special monthly children's celebration for November. She and her helper Zeina used Ephesians 5:20 as the key verse "Always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father." The kids had the chance to consider who we are to thank, when, why and for what we are to be thankful. They then made a thanksgiving bouquet (they wrote down things they wanted to thank God for on the leaves of each flower that they made). In a world that focuses so much on what it can get, it was nice to think with the kids about what we can be thankful for! We understand that one of our GEM board members has determined to spend just as much time thanking God for answers to prayer as he spent praying for things in the first place. A good challenge for us all!

This Friday evening we will be attending a banquet with Equip Nederland. It is (quite appropriately for this month) a dinner to thank those who work throughout the year to make the training that Equip offers possible. We look forward to spending the evening in Delft with others involved in big and small ways in helping provide leadership training to believers here. The following day, Chris will be attending an all day worship team training with a couple of others from our local church. It will be a good day for him to not only enjoy some training but also to spend time with others involved in worship in the church.

Continue to pray for the Christmas outreaches. The English and Polish outreaches are just 3 weeks away. Chris has been diligently sending press releases to the local papers, but so far no one has printed anything. We ask you to pray that that will change. Last year we got a good amount of press coverage and it really helped draw people to the English service. We have distributed quite a few posters around town and handed out quite a number of individual invitations. We know of 11 people whom we have personally invited who will be coming, 3 others who have indicated real interest in coming and a number of others whom we have also invited. Pray for God to draw the people that He wants to be there on December 7.

When we wrote last we were having difficulty getting in contact with people regarding the Polish outreach. That has now turned around (thanks for praying) and we definitely have 9 (!) people coming with the band from Poland, arriving on December 4. We had a great meeting two weeks ago with a couple in Bovenkarspel (the town where the concert will be held). We spent the afternoon in their home and enjoying the enthusiasm of this Dutch couple for evangelism. He spontaneously made arrangements (despite the fact that it was a Sunday afternoon) for us to be able to see the building that we will be using. The facility has room for over 150 people (more than we thought) and is a nice location. It is a Salvation Army facility that many Polish people go to to shop in the thrift shop. Our Dutch co-workers then offered to feed us and the 9 people from the band dinner the day of the concert! For those who know much about Dutch culture, getting invited to dinner at all is a big thing. Having someone you really just met make this offer is incredible! So on December 5 Chris will drop Terri off at their home to help with cooking while he and the band get set up for the evening. Then there will be time for them to return to this home, eat what is amounting to a combination Dutch (stampot) and American (some sort of baked goodies for dessert) dinner. We have also had people come out of the woodwork who know Polish people or who know where they hang out in this area! We even have a couple non-Christians who have helped out by distributing Polish language flyers for the concert! Pray again for God to bring those that need to be there and for all the logistical details of that weekend. Pray as well for the band (Exodus 15) to have a safe trip from Poland...they are driving all day on Thursday, December 4 to get here.

Publicity is also beginning for the Dutch language Christmas Eve service. The children are once again presenting a musical...this year it is called "Glitter". The musical is about two families at Christmas: one who has a home that looks perfect and one family that has nothing, but shares freely from what they do have. Chris will be playing bass guitar again this year for the entire service and the children's musical. We pray here too that God will draw the people that need to come.

In keeping with the theme of being thankful, we want to tell you all again how thankful we are to God for you! Your prayer, financial, emotional and spiritual support of us makes it possible for us to be here serving our great God! We really couldn't be here without all of you!

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Dutch idiom: I just looked in my Dutch idiom book and dictionary to find an expression or idiom regarding thankfulness. Interestingly enough, under "Thankfulness" was the saying "Dankbaarheid is een bloemke, dat in weinig hoven bloeit" (Thankfulness is a flower that grows in few gardens) along with a reference to "see 'unthankful'! There I found the expression "Ondank is 's werelds loon" (Unthankfulness is the world's payment) used to express the idea that good deeds are often repaid with a lack of thankfulness or that you often get nothing in return for good deeds. Our prayer is that we first of all express our thankfulness to God often for what He has done and continues to do. We cannot begin to repay Him for all that He does, but we can be sincerely thankful and make it known. Secondly let's express our thankfulness to others for their help, ministry and impact in our lives! Let's not let our hearts be one of those gardens that have few 'flowers of thanksgiving' growing in them!

Praise & Prayer:

- Praise God for a mayor willing to take a stand that could close down the red light district in Alkmaar!
- Pray that God will not let the appeal to his decision overturn it.
- Pray for the prostitutes to be able to leave this line of work and come to know Christ
- Praise God for the potential of the Dutch Sign Language Bible project to become a Wycliffe project
- Pray for the Wycliffe Board as they meet on Nov 25 and the Bible work group as decisions are made about how to proceed
- Pray for the newspapers to pick up our press releases about the Christmas outreaches
- Pray for God to use these outreaches to His glory:
  - December 5 - Polish
  - December 7 - English
  - December 24 - Dutch
- Pray for the band Exodus 15 to have safe travels from Poland on December 4

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Financial contributions/support pledges can be sent to:

Greater Europe Mission

PO Box 1669

Monument, CO 80132-1669

Reference fund number 009990

Donations and pledges can also be made on-line at

[www.GEMission.org](http://www.GEMission.org)