

# The Brushstroke

Your missionary prayer letter from Portrait

November 2004

## Things we love about Belgium:

**Frites** - crispy and delicious French - no, make that *Belgian* - fries, served with a dollop of mayonnaise

**Flowers** - abundant and beautiful, and very affordable

**The open-air street market** in our community every Friday morning

The most gorgeous **rainbows** ever

## Things we miss:

**Garbage disposal**

**Free soft drink refills and ice cubes**

**Our big van** with its automatic windows and door locks

**Understanding** what's being said all around us



♥ We send occasional e-mail updates on our family life and prayer requests, so if you would like to receive those or *The Brushstroke* in that format, please contact us at

[singin@compuserve.com](mailto:singin@compuserve.com)

Dear Friends,

We've been in Belgium for two months now, and what a change it's been from our previous life on the road. Ironically, many of our adjustments have to do with driving: learning to drive a stick shift, mastering the rules of the road, remembering the 'priority on the right' law, maneuvering sharp curves and steep cobblestone streets, and fitting into impossibly tight parking spaces. Getting used to the Belgian style of driving has been a culture shock.

At Cornerstone International Church we've noticed that because most people are here temporarily, there is a feeling of urgency that causes folks to invest more time in one another earlier on in their relationships. For example, when someone says, "let's get together sometime," the other person says, "ok, how about tomorrow?" There's no putting it off, because no one knows when they will be called away by a crisis at work or a last minute business trip, or the news of an imminent transfer to a new place. People realize their time is short and want to make the most of it. As we observe this phenomenon within this precious group of Christians, we're realizing that this is how we want to travel through life, whether in Belgium or any place else: recognizing that we're not here for long, because this world is not our home. Since we don't know how short or long our time here will be, let's make the most of it and invest it in the most important thing of all: people.

Thank you for praying and giving so we can be here. We like the church very much and are enjoying our work with the worship team. In the next few months we will continue to encourage and train existing members of the team and raise up new members, to be leaders. We already feel that a year is too short to accomplish much, and we are seeking God's direction for a longer commitment to this church and this region. Your prayers as we consider this are very much appreciated.

Love and blessings,

*Pete & Jma*

Pete, Tina, Alaska & Simon Matteson

