

WinstonWindow on Belgium December 2009

Please send address changes to Andrea Randall*4000 NE 157th Ct*Vancouver, WA. 98682-7152 thank you
Ted & Malia: Chemin des Postes 85, 1410 Waterloo Belgium Tel: 011-32-2-524-2021. New email: tmwin88@hotmail.com

Here and there...

Here:

As you may know, we have been in the States for the past months on **home assignment** and will be returning to Europe right after Christmas. It has been an interesting trip back filled with spending time with Malia's family, travelling to visit our supporting friends and churches, and speaking in different places.



Alex, Max and Bianca have been in school in Escondido, California, and stayed with Malia's folks while Malia and I travelled. They have missed their friends back home, but are now also ambivalent about going back because it's a change once again. Plus, who can beat the Southern California weather? Rain anyone?

We wish we could have seen all of you on this home assignment trip, but time constraints and geography have made it difficult to meet with everyone.

There:

Back in Belgium ministry goes on. It's great to know that we are part of a team that can step in so and that we don't leave things on hold.



Last spring we started **training a new group** of about 10 young people to step up into leadership. They finished the training program this fall without us, and they will be joining the existing team this coming spring. It will be a challenging transition for everyone, as the "older" volunteer leaders will have to make way for the new ones. The younger leaders will be intimidated by the "experience" of the others, and so we need to give them confidence and responsibility. Should be fun! Several in this new group are girls, and so we want to thank the Lord for answering a real need for which many of you were praying. Thank you for your faithfulness!

The club that we started in our home last year is still meeting there. We started with five, ended the spring with 18, and six new kids have showed up over this fall in our absence, which is a real encouragement to us. This means that those attending are still inviting their friends. We are very grateful to Sergio and Anthony who are running the club while we are gone, and we are

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really looking forward to seeing everyone again. The first big event we will have on our plate is the Sky Camp in February, which always draws a good group of non-Christian kids. Please pray for me and the preparations; I have been out of the loop these past months and will be directing the camp.

The church we are part of in Brussels has taken a big step and, by faith, purchased the property we were eyeing. This will double the size of our current auditorium to 240 seats and help us in reaching our friends for Christ in a more comfortable setting. The first phase of renovations is starting this winter, and hopefully we will be able to move into the new place in April pending finances. Further work on the building will take place later on. The Lord has opened many doors for this project to see the light of day, and the church has responded in real unity and with great enthusiasm.



As you can see there are many exciting things going on right now, and we are so thankful to be a part of them. Never a dull moment as we like to say.

As you pray for the “here and there” please remember:

- **Our kids** who have been bounced around so much lately. They have not always taken kindly to all the changes, and when we get home we need to get them settled back in school.
- Our last weeks in the States, that they would be full of **good memories and family time.**
- **Our team** back in Belgium and for the transitions it will go through in the coming months.
- Our own move back into ministry when we go home.
- That our **finances** would be where they need to be so that we can return without the stress of under support.
- The falling dollar and the general state of **the economy** that is affecting so many of our supporting friends.

We want to thank you all for your faithful support and prayers through the past year. We have realized once again as we travelled this fall how blessed we have been all this time by so many friends who are involved in our family’s life and ministry. As we often say, “couldn’t do it without you.”

We wish you all a Merry Christmas as you celebrate our Lord’s coming, and we pray that you will also have a great start to the coming year.

Ted and Malia
Escondido, California