



The Hamley Herald

April 2011



Making Marriage “Fireproof”

Two weeks ago, our Latino fellowship group enjoyed the first major ministry event at our new ministry center: a showing of the movie “Fireproof.” A lot of work went into making the center ready and especially into getting the sound and projection system up and ready. We were blessed with some technical support from a new Paraguayan attendee who joined the group about a month ago and has been faithfully attending ever since. With some new chairs bought and the old ones refurbished, and plenty of popcorn and refreshments (including fellow missionary Sheila Dickinson’s famous cookies), we settled in, hoping for a great turnout.

We certainly got one, as much of the group’s core, a few new attendees, plus several spouses who don’t normally come, packed into the room—about twenty in all. The movie set just the right tone: humorous, but spiritually touching and “real” enough to relate to. By the end there was barely a dry eye in the audience, and that included the men!

Several people were especially interested in the “Love Dare” featured in the film, so much that they asked fellow missionary Richard Dickinson to buy them copies of the book in Spanish, English or Dutch. We’re praying the order comes in soon and that the interest in investing in making marriage long-lasting and resilient will continue in our group. We look forward to making “movie night” a monthly event if possible.

Celebrating the Season

With the Easter season upon us, we are taking advantage of the break in school here (the two weeks before Easter, plus the Monday after) to put on some special events. Last Friday, our Filipino group put on a movie night of its own, showing the movie “To Save a Life,” which was quite good, but perhaps a bit out of the usual context for most of those who saw it.

This Wednesday, our Latino fellowship group will be celebrating with its first-ever worship service. (Most weeks, we meet in a member’s home for Bible study and fellowship.) This will take place in the ministry center, with a fellowship meal to follow. Please pray for Richard Dickinson as he preaches what will be a dramatic

sermon, showing what Jesus did for us in his work on the cross and through his resurrection from the dead.

On Good Friday, our international church will be sharing in a combined service with the local congregation of the Church of England here in Oostende. We look forward to this time of fellowship together, as well as a reminder of our Wesleyan roots as a denomination. We pray for many more opportunities for Christians here in Belgium, few though we are, to stand together in witness of the love we share for our Savior.

Also, this Saturday, we look forward to a very special event: a children’s Easter event, which has been in the works for several months now, organized by Sheila and Carrie. As a church, we have been inviting friends, relatives, neighbors, and others we have relationships with to bring their children to the ministry center for a time of stories, crafts, fellowship, an Easter egg hunt, and an opportunity to have their picture taken with our resident “Easter Bunny”—our very own Carmen. Please pray that this would be well-attended and that the children would know we celebrate more than just the opportunity to eat candy: we celebrate Jesus and what He did for us on the cross!



Andrew and Mommy enjoy a visit to the North Sea Aquarium to meet some local fish.

Andrew Update

This week Andrew turns all of twelve weeks old! He continues to make our lives exciting. He’s recently been on quite a growth spurt: clothes that fit last Thursday

didn't fit on Monday! Also, it's amazing to see how much he's grown from when he was born. That little tiny guy we brought home from the hospital just seems to keep getting bigger!

But he's grown in a lot of other ways too. He is becoming extremely aware of his surroundings, which made for a fun visit to a local aquarium last week. (He seemed especially fond of the sharks!) His latest trick is to put his pacifier back in his mouth when it falls out. We saw him do it once and thought he just got lucky, but he proceeded to do it several more times over the next few days. He even showed his grandparents over Skype.

He has also been more talkative lately. We're not really sure what he's saying most of the time, but he is clearly working on getting fluent sooner rather than later! One time I (Michael) said to him, "I love you, Andrew," and he said back what sounded very much like "I love you." Maybe I was just hearing what I wanted to, but it was a very special moment nonetheless.

Andrew continues to be easygoing and easy to get along with. At Bible study he looks around intently at different people or else sleeps and keeps someone's lap warm. When we Skype with both sets of grandparents, he does the same, often looking from one to the other as if he were watching a ping-pong match. And lately, he's begun to sleep through the night most nights, letting us get some much-needed rest. God has given us a precious and wonderful gift in Andrew!

Retreat!

The week after Easter, we head off to the second-ever Europe area missionary retreat. This time, it's actually close enough for us to drive: a short trip into nearby France, then across the "Chunnel" to England. The retreat itself will be held at a Christian conference center in rural England, which will be a treat, especially for Michael, who has always wanted to visit the U.K., where his ancestors came from. Our speaker for the retreat will be Dr. Tony Headley from Asbury Seminary, one of Michael's past professors. It should be a relaxing, informal time of fellowship with our co-workers from across the continent.

Praises

- Andrew's continued growth and development.
- A successful movie night with the Latino fellowship group.
- For the joy of experiencing springtime, especially the blessing of the Lenten season.

- We are starting to make serious progress unpacking and settling in to our home, thanks to a 2½ week break from language school.

Prayers

- For this weekend's children's Easter event, that it would be well-attended and that the message would be taken to heart.
- For the upcoming missionary retreat: safety in travels and a relaxing week together. This will be our first overnight trip with a baby—hope we don't forget anything!
- For the several unwed couples who are starting families in our Latino group: that God would convict them of the sanctity of marriage and the family.
- For our upcoming exams in Nederlands class.
- For opportunities to share the Gospel with the Belgian people.

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*"This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."
—Luke 24:46-48*

