



Prayer Letter N° 33

December 2017

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you all in the precious Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We hope and pray that this letter finds you well both spiritually and physically, with the former as priority. Most of us (all of us??) are pleased when our physical health is good, but we know that living in a fallen world means we can't always enjoy good physical health. However, if we're spiritually healthy in our walk with the Lord, we can and should be content, despite physical ailments.

In recent letters we have highlighted two particular emphases in our ministry:

- the need to care for our senior citizens in the church
- the need to reach a younger generation

These needs will be ongoing for a long time to come. About 50% of our 38 church members are above the age of 60, so there is a big need for ministry amongst our senior citizens. Then, at the younger end of the age range, the numbers of children, teenagers, and young adults in our church are quite small. Here, we would particularly like to reach more young couples in the twenty to thirty age range, an age group which seems very sparse in several other churches as well as our own. Anyway, we'd like to say a few words about these two groups.

### **Senior citizens**

As I (Michael) sit in my office writing this letter, it is snowing quite heavily outside. Although snow is unusual here in De Panne (its coastal location usually means winter temperatures stay a few degrees above freezing point), this does remind me of the physical trials of senior citizens. Most senior citizens generally find the winter a difficult time with the damp weather conditions and colder temperatures. And so, now that winter is just around the corner (in the will of the Lord), our senior citizens need extra attention. Please pray for our senior citizens who are generally 'housebound', either at home or in care homes; Adeline (81), Noël and his wife Roza (76 and 74 respectively), Simonne (82), Huguette (82), and Jean-Pierre (67). Do please pray that in their physical isolation, they would still feel part of the fellowship and that the Lord would stir them up to pray for His work. Other senior citizens who are able to get to church regularly, but struggle with various ongoing physical ailments include Anna (80), Nicole (77), Rosette (70), Jean-Paul and his wife Yvette (62 and 74 respectively), Guido and his wife Nicole (66 and 64 respectively), Marie-Therese (66), and Helene (60). We would also appreciate prayer for Marc (80), who became a widower a few months ago and will inevitably find the holiday and new year period a difficult time.

### **Young people**

As we said above, we don't have too many children, teenagers or young adults. About seven children attend Sunday School each week and those same children also enjoy a monthly children's club on a Saturday afternoon. Please remember these endeavours in your prayers, and pray for our Sunday School teachers (Ariëtte, Annelies, Luc, Sarah, Deborah, and Rebecca) as they endeavour to bring God's Word to the children on their level. Rebecca and Deborah also lead the monthly children's club. Our work in the teenage age group is sporadic and minimal at the moment, as is work amongst young adults aged between twenty and thirty. We are particularly keen to try to do more to reach young adults and young couples,

and if young couples with children start coming to church, then young couples and their children as well can hear God's Word. One challenge and 'puzzle' for many churches in these days is how to reach unchurched young people, whilst not neglecting the young people already in the church. Recently, I was reading 'The Missing Generation – a practical guide to 20s-30s ministry' by Kay Mumford, and its contents did give us food for thought. May The Lord give us wisdom as we ponder these issues.

As we close, it is the time of year to send you our seasonal greetings and very best wishes for 2018. We are aware that amongst Christians there are various views regarding what is called 'Christmas' (i.e. to celebrate it or ignore it). And so, as regards Christmas, whatever you believe (or don't believe), whatever you celebrate (or don't celebrate), and whatever you undertake (or don't undertake) in the Lord's Name at this season, may He grant you His blessing in all your endeavours for Him. Thank you for your prayers!

Yours warmly in Christ,

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