

Dear Friends,

Meditation is a popular thing to do. If you tell your colleagues you can't go with them to the cafeteria for instance because you are going to meditate you would probably gain their respect. They think of practices of far eastern religions and philosophies, which aim for an achievement of a higher state of consciousness, to greater focus, creativity or self-awareness, or simply a more relaxed and peaceful frame of mind. But if you said that you are going to study the Bible or pray to Jesus, they might look a bit askew at you. That's no surprise, Paul told us already: **We preach Christ crucified: a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles.** (1 Corinthians 1:23)

The season of Lent is an excellent opportunity to focus on the cross and meditate on the benefits for us in Christ's suffering and dying. This is where God's love shines the brightest. This is where He reaches out to lost humankind, offering forgiveness for offending the holy God, and invites us to live with Him in close fellowship now and in the life to come. We Christians cling to the cross. This is no stumbling-block nor foolishness to us. We draw strength from the cross. Paul goes on: **For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.** (verse 25)

My 3-year-old daughter sometimes calls Jesus "crossman". Right to the point! This name conveys both His sacrifice on our behalf as well as some superhuman strength. Christians can meditate. Instead of focusing on our own strength we focus on Christ crucified and His strength. Where in your daily schedule can you make room to meditate on the "crossman"? Remain blessed, *Pastor Tepper*

The world crowns success;  
God crowns faithfulness!



Please Pray...

- For M'hammed in the Christianity Explained course that he accepts his Savior.
- For the health of our church, that we take the Quality Characteristics (page 2) to heart.

- For all pregnant women, and for protection of all unborn infants.
- For those with birthdays this month:
  - Mar 4: Michelle Spear
  - Mar 7: Ernest Isaac-Duran
  - Mar 13: Esther Landau

If you have any needs for which we can pray, please send your requests to: pastor@alcb.be and specify whether it is private or to be shared.

Nourished by the Holy Spirit we are committed to:

- sharing with all people the love of Christ,
- studying the Word of God,
- sustaining each other with fellowship and vibrant worship,
- growing in members and faith.



Above: First Christian Family Home Training Retreat.

## Upcoming Events...

**Sunday, Mar 7: Super-Sunday**

4:30pm *Family Service*

Afterward: **Let's talk Evangelism**

with missionary adviser **Jim Bloker** (see page 2)

**Sunday, Mar 14:** 4:30pm Worship Service (divine service 1)

**Sunday, Mar 21:** 4:30pm shorter Worship Service (with creative elements) afterward **General Meeting**

**Sunday, Mar 28:** 2:30pm March for Life (<http://nl.28march2010.be>) Brussels, Koningsplein/Place Royale

4:30pm Worship Service (divine service 2, setting II.)

**Friday, Apr 2:** 5:00pm Good Friday service in the stable

**Sunday, Apr 4: 4:00pm Family Service** – Easter Sunday  
With **Easter Fair and Easter egg hunt**

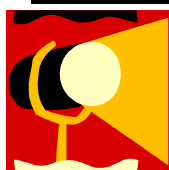
## Children and Family Ministry Information

We had a lovely time as we learned about and designed bedtime rituals to use as a time of faith training at our Family Retreat on 27 February.

If you missed it & would like handouts, let us know.

For those who will be in-town **Easter Sunday**, we have a family service, Easter egg hunt, and crafts planned that you won't want to miss!

Date	2-5s	5-10s
14 Mar	Hilde	
28 Mar	Hamilton	Spear



## Member Spotlight

Our congregation might not recognize this week's spotlight member — Raymond Auquier — from his photo. It's because we are most accustomed to seeing the back of his head. Raymond delights and entertains ALCB every Sunday with his talents on the organ, which he has honed in 50 years of playing. If for some reason the organ was in the shop, Raymond could come to the rescue in other areas: He also plays the piano, guitar and recorder, showing how gifted he is as a musician. He said his other hobbies include reading, biking, learning and speaking other languages, enjoying nature, and, of course, music. Raymond is the proud father of four sons who have combined to give him nine grandchildren — with a 10th on the way! He also has a keen sense of humor. Asked how long he has lived in Belgium, Raymond said: "I have been living in Belgium since my birthday. I was born in Brussels a long time ago!!!" He loves reading scripture and said of all verses, Jeremiah 15:16 stands out (...and thy words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart). Our church is grateful to have Raymond among its membership and truly benefits from his talents.



## Developing our Mission Mindset...

**Natural Church Development** is a way of understanding church health and growth that views the church as a living organism. The NCD survey measures the church's relative health in eight areas that have been demonstrated to have a clear correlation with healthy church growth known as Quality Characteristics. We saw an overview over all eight last month. During the next months we'll look at one at a time.

**Empowering Leadership.** The clue with these Quality Characteristics is always the adjective. Every church has some kind of leadership, but healthy churches have *empowering* leadership.

Leaders of growing churches concentrate on empowering other Christians for ministry. They do not use lay workers as "helpers" in attaining their own goals and fulfilling their own visions. These pastors equip, support, motivate, and mentor individuals, enabling them to become all that God wants them to be. Rather than handling the bulk of church responsibilities on their own, they invest the majority of their time in discipleship, delegation, and multiplication. The Apostle Paul referred to this equipping when he said, "...for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ..." (Eph. 4:12).

**We should ask ourselves:** To what extent is the ministry of the leaders focusing on equipping other Christians to serve?

**Super-Sunday** — Missionary adviser Jim Bloker is coming to town and we are allowed to benefit from the rich experience of this multiple church planter and expert on church life. We'll start our Super-Sunday on **March 7** with our Family Service at 16:30 and sip our coffee afterwards while Jim works with us. Child care will be provided. Please take advantage of this awesome opportunity. It's going to be highly interesting.

Meet Jim and listen to an audio interview with him: <http://blog.lcmsworldmission.org/2009/11/25/audio-interview-with-missionary-jim-bloker/>

**General Meeting** — On Sunday March 21st we'll stay together after a short service for our annual GM.

### Agenda:

- State of the church and mission report
- Finances and budget
- Spring picnic
- Day at the beach
- Miscellaneous
  - Pictorial directory
  - Welcome package

Please come. Your presence, opinions and involvement are important to us.

### Our Stewardship

Budget '10 €62,000*?	Tithes & Offerings	Offering Year to Date	Bank Transfers
Feb 7	€170.40	€1487.95	February: €760
Feb 14	€101		
Feb 21	€361.55	Donations Year to Date €2,987.95	Avg. Weekly Total Donations €373.49
Feb 28	€196		
Funds Needed Year to Date	€10,333*	Funds Needed each Week	€1,192.30*

\* Note: This amount reflects that which we need to be self-supporting, which is our goal ASAP. We are currently subsidized by the LCMS and the SELK, and the Antwerp congregation, however this is for a limited time and not long-term.



## discipleship fellowship

small groups

**Women's Bible study** Thursdays, 1:00-3:00pm  
Contact: Michelle Tepper (mmtepper@hotmail.com)

**Family Bible study** Schaerbeek, Contact: Levente Cszasi (levente\_czasi@yahoo.co.uk)

**Confessions study group** Upon mutual consent, 7:30pm  
Contact: Chris Vahrenhorst (027572260)

**Confirmation class** Watermael-Boitsfort  
Contact: Pastor Tepper (027680955)

**Visiting pastor** Any time!  
Contact: Pastor Tepper (027680955)

**Guys night out** Upon mutual consent  
Contact: Pastor Tepper (027680955)