



## **GIFFORD UPDATE (Belgium)**

September 2023

Dear Friends at Westminster Bible Chapel,

**This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears  
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.**

I saw this quoted on a social media page, it was a wonderful reminder that we serve an awesome, sovereign God. I haven't thought of that hymn for years but I found myself humming it during the day and slowly the words came back to me.

**This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world: the battle is not done:  
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,  
And earth and Heav'n be one.**

This is a promise we can hang on to. God has promised the victory and He never makes a promise He won't fulfill. Even though we look around us and see the devastating results of sin, it is good to remember that El Elyon – the Sovereign God is in control!

It's a privilege to be able to bring this good news of His sovereignty, this gospel of His peace to Belgium. It's a message that brings real hope, real life.

After a 6 week visit to Canada (April and May), in which we saw most of our family members and many friends we came back to a very busy month before the summer camps started.

Camps are now over for the year and we had 121 teens in 2 camps. It is always a privilege to be able to share the gospel with such a captive audience. Thank you for your prayers for the camps. Please pray that the teens would remember God's Word that was taught and memorized at camp.

Last week we were in France enjoying a wonderful week of teaching and fellowship at the Missionary Conference. Sharing our work and lives with other missionaries in Europe encourages us in our ministry, as well as in our prayers for them and theirs for us. We are thankful for this initiative started more than 40 years ago.

Tomorrow the new school year starts and our schedules are fast filling with many ministry related activities.

Here are some prayer items for the next months:

- training of young men for church leadership
- wisdom and discernment for future direction in camp ministry and leadership

- teaching and leading in small group Bible studies – this applies to both of us as Joanna is also involved in teaching women.
- wisdom in dealing with pastoral care problems – many struggling marriages
- continued prayer for our daughter Stephanie. She has good and bad days and is still under doctor's care

Thank you for ministering to us with your prayers, and being a part of The Lord's work here in Belgium.

In Him,  
Peter and Joanna Gifford