



A great new **Children Matter** initiative in the UK is the "Will you make a difference?" resource DVD available at £1. It's packed with videos, PowerPoints and resources to encourage the church in children's ministry. Find out more at www.wymad.org.uk and make sure your church gets one! I will be inviting ministries at our next **French speaking Europe Forum** 23rd - 24th February in Alsace, France to develop a similar resource in French.



Another sign of the growing spiritual hunger in Europe is that 40,000 young adults from across Europe and other continents will gather in Brussels, Belgium from December 29 to January 2 at the call of the Taizé Community. After Geneva, Zagreb, Milan, Lisbon and Hamburg, the Brussels meeting will be the 31st meeting of European youth led by Taizé.

We have kits to help start a children's club which we want to send to our friends in **Burundi**. They cost £10 (\$15) each and we can send up to 90 kits. To sponsor a kit to start one or more clubs, send your gift to the ACTION UK or USA office with the mention "Belgian kits for Africa".



Tournai Church: The church has a series of events in December to share the Good News of God's love with the people of Tournai. We have a prayer vigil, a concert with Philippe Decourroux, a bookstall and Christmas card activity for children at a local shopping centre from 13th - 24th December, the youth choir will sing at a home for the elderly, we have a film night on the 19th, our Christmas service and lunch on the 21st and a baptismal service on the 28th.

All the family is well and God is teaching us much in these days. Laura and Tim have just finished school exams. May God bless you abundantly and increase your joy as you allow Him to make you a channel of increased blessing to others!

Love from us all, Harry, Catherine, Laura & Timothée Bryans

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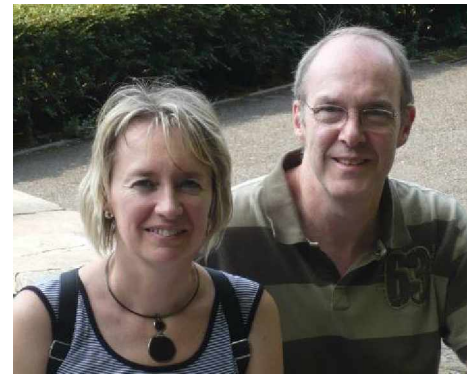
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Hope for Europe

Convenor of the European Children's Ministry Network
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Statues outside the E.U. Parliament. Who are Europe's children looking to for hope?



Dear Friends,

"I cry out to God Most High, to God, who fulfils his purpose for me. He sends from heaven and saves me...God sends his love and his faithfulness." Psalm 57:2-3

At Christmas we remember how God sent His Son Jesus, the supreme Saviour from Heaven and the perfect expression of His love and faithfulness. Such words strengthen our trust and expectancy as we look to God to fulfil His purposes in the daily experiences of our lives!

While for our family God has clearly opened up strategic new doors and opportunities in ministry over this last year, it continues to prove the most challenging time to our faith as we go through these doors and look to God to provide for all that is needed; for us personally and for the projects before us. We too cry out to the Lord and firmly believe we will see his love and faithfulness yet again and more so than ever!



In 25 years of ministry in Belgium and Europe we have always seen God provide for us even though we have had moments of waiting. So far this year we have had less financial support come in while at the same time the new responsibilities within **ACTION** and **Hope for Europe** as Convenor of the European Children's Ministry Network have required increased travel and international ministry. Neither ACTION nor HfE have funds available and each missionary and convenor is required to raise their own support. We have written to several international ministries to help support me in this new role in Europe and so far 2 have made contributions.

The 20% drop in value of the British pound against the euro this year has also impacted the value of our existing support. So far this year we have been able to draw support salary for only 4 months out of 12 but these amounts have entirely been used to cover ministry expenses and travel and not for our personal use.

Each of the trips made this year to strategic conferences, forums and meetings with ministry leaders has led to important progress in international and European children's ministry networking and partnerships. This has truly been a walk of faith that only God could have convinced us to take and pursue with the certainty and peace we have known as a family.



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Christmas 2008

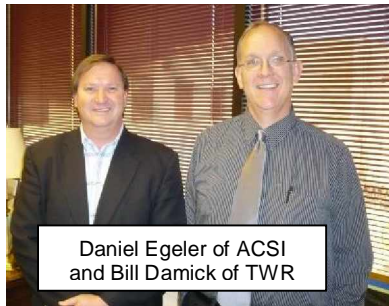


This is indeed a test to our faith which provokes many questions. It is vital for Laura and Timothée to see God's faithful provision for this and every area of life; to learn to trust Him for everything and at all times and to persevere through the trials and difficulties we encounter in life. It may concern health or disability issues, struggles with loss or grief, family troubles, financial needs, career or job changes, temptation, suffering, injustice or persecution... God promises to comfort and provide for those who choose to trust in His love and care and live under His Lordship and direction. If our experience in learning perseverance, patience and trust encourages others to trust God through some current personal testing moments in their life then it will have been all the more worthwhile! If you would like to help, gifts can be sent through the international offices or online at www.actionintl.org.

USA October visit: The time in **Seattle** enabled the building of existing friendships and the making of new acquaintances with ACTION colleagues and associates. The Lord also opened up new relationships with pastors, churches and individuals which we trust will continue to grow and be a source of much mutual blessing.

The meetings with various ministries have also opened the way for receiving resources for other ACTION projects such as **Pastoral Leadership Development** Projects: books and materials for pastors and their communities and teaching resources and materials for children's ministry. Find out more at www.equippastors.org. Pray for the hundreds of children's Christmas events organised by ACTION colleagues for which a total of £50,000 / \$74,000 is required.

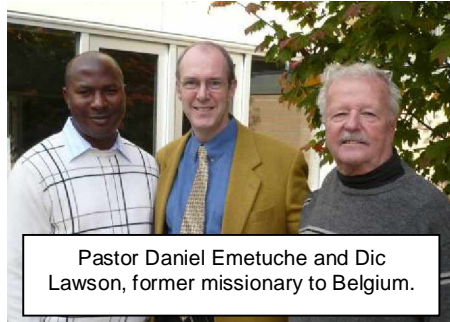
Both the Seattle and Colorado Springs meetings with children's ministries, some of which were present at the 1st **Global Children's Forum** in Chicago in July, have helped maintain partnership momentum. I was invited to join the widened GCF steering committee, assisting the working groups and preparing for the next GCF to be hosted by Book of Hope in the USA 19th – 21st May 2009.



Daniel Egeler of ACSI and Bill Damick of TWR

While in **Colorado Springs** I met with directors and representatives of Trans World Radio (TWR), International Bible Society – STL, Compassion International, the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), the International Network of Children's Ministry, Cook International and Focus on the Family. At each meeting I presented the work of ACTION, the international children's ministry networking role, the Global and European Forums, the Internet strategy for children and the project for the children's version of www.lookingforgod.com

The **Internet Ministry Conference** in Grand Rapids gave some excellent opportunities to build on the relationship with **Top Chrétien** and some of their partners involved in one or other language version of the www.lookingforgod.com websites. Since the first site was opened in 2005 the sites have received over 9 million visitors of which over 950,000 have indicated trusting Jesus as their Saviour. God has used this adult version to speak to many such as this 14 year old teenager, from Montauban, France:



Pastor Daniel Emetuche and Dic Lawson, former missionary to Belgium.

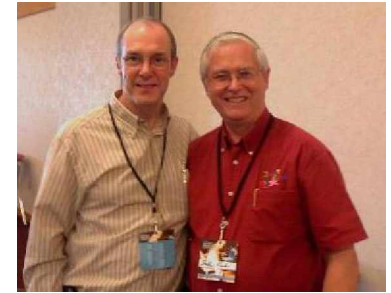
"I am sorry to remain anonymous... I am 14 years old and I wish to inform you about my first prayer to accept Jesus! That's true! This was how I was praying before: I talked to God every evening while looking at the moon and sitting at my window, and I told him about my day. I thought that it couldn't interest him... now I want to pray like it is written on your website, but can I still tell God about my days? I really like to do that... can I? Please reply!!! Warm greetings!"

The Top Chrétien leaders have invited me to meetings planned **16th – 19th March** in Paris with the partners of the 35 language versions of the adult sites. This is an ideal occasion to present the children's version project to them and get their involvement from the beginning. This will be a key breakthrough to take things much further on a European and Global partnership level.



At the conference I was able to make new ministry acquaintances interested in participating in the Internet initiatives. Sheldon Rhodes of **Jest Kidding** has just launched a new outreach site

for children with a flash animation www.godsfamily.com and is keen to partner with an international initiative. **Evangelism Explosion** has brought out a new children's EE resource with a Flash animation Gospel presentation on www.kidsee.com.



European Projects: The **Hope for Europe** Round Table in Basle was a time of giving thanks for what has been achieved over the last 15 years, assessing the needs of the present and addressing the challenges of the future. We had special sessions on what we see God doing in cities and signs of how through the church He is renewing and transforming communities. I was invited to attend the next **European Evangelical Alliance** General Assembly in Spain in April. This will be a key time

to get acquainted with national leaders and share vision, information about projects for Europe's children.

European children's ministry conference: We hope that many Continental European children's ministry leaders will take up the FREE registration offer from Kingsway for the next Children's Ministry Conference in Eastbourne, UK, **23rd - 25th January 2009**. Together we will host a meeting on the **Monday 26th** after the conference for any thinking about organising their own national conference.

Our planning committee is excited as we prepare for the **Children's Ministry European Director's Forum** in Dordrecht in Holland from **2nd – 5th March 2009**. Many directors have indicated their intention to come. This will be an opportunity to further build on a European level what was done at the Global Children's Forum.