

December 2007 Prayer Communiqué

Hearts for Holland

Chris and Terri Chapman have long felt an affinity for Europe. In 2000, sensing God’s call to missions, they visited several European countries to explore the possibilities. “When we got to the Netherlands [commonly referred to as Holland],” says Terri, “we both knew that we needed to come back.” In 2002 they joined GEM’s church-planting team there. Chris now uses his administrative skills in ministry. He also oversees the coordination of short-term teams and does the bookkeeping for EQUIP, an organization that provides leadership training for churches and Christian organizations. At the *Evangelische Kringgemeente Vriendschap* (Friendship Evangelical Cell Church) in Alkmaar, he leads a cell group, helps with worship services, and sometimes preaches.



In addition to church responsibilities, Terri is passionate about ministry to the deaf, who are often isolated and lonely. She has been a certified American Sign Language interpreter for 28 years and is studying to attain national interpreter certification for Dutch Sign Language. She is working with others toward an ambitious goal: producing the entire Bible in Dutch Sign Language.

The Alkmaar church reaches out to the community in many ways. One of the most popular is an English-language Christmas service that draws Dutch people as well as internationals. A couple years ago, when it became obvious that the church lacked adequate resources for the project, Lighthouse Bible Church in California came to the rescue by sending a team to plan and lead the service. “It was such a blessing to be able to focus on interacting with visitors,” Terri says, “while the team concentrated on the details—everything from baking tons of homemade cookies to the service itself.”

The Dutch have a saying: *Daar is meer omgegaan dan de molens in het woud*. (“There is more going on than there are windmills in the woods”; in other words, more is happening than people think.) This reminds Chris and Terri of Ephesians 3:20, “Now to him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think....” They are enthusiastic about the future, knowing that God is busy behind the scenes, doing far more than they can imagine—more than there are “windmills in the woods”!

Note: For more information, visit www.thechapmans.nl.

The Netherlands

In the land of tulips, windmills, and wooden shoes, 60 to 70 churches per year are demolished or rezoned for commercial use. The Netherlands has legalized abortion, euthanasia, prostitution, and same-sex marriages. The country is often referred to as Holland, probably because much of the population is concentrated in North Holland and South Holland, two of the country's 12 provinces.

A GEM missionary began work in the Netherlands in 1953. Tyndale Theological Seminary was founded in 1985 and still prepares students for ministries around the world. GEM missionaries are actively involved in evangelism, teaching, and church planting; and they are prayerfully considering plans for ministry to the deaf community.

