



Thomas' Travels



Belgium, France, then Congo & Haiti...

February, 2010

LEUVEN, BELGIUM — At times the Lord surprises us. Thirty-seven years ago I began to work towards my doctorate at the **Free University of Amsterdam (Holland)**. In the process, I wrote what they call a "scriptie," which is a preliminary research dissertation before one begins the doctoral dissertation itself. The scriptie was entitled "A Brief Analysis of the Development of the Belgian Gospel Mission from its Inception until 1940." I included this scriptie in the bibliography of my doctoral dissertation, which was published in Holland in 1977. I hoped that one day the scriptie would be published too. Thirty-six years after writing the scriptie, recently Mr **Aaldert Prins** contacted me. He is a Dutch doctoral student living in Belgium. He is also an archivist for Belgian evangelical protestants. He came across my published doctoral dissertation and found the reference to the scriptie. He located me through the Internet and asked me where he could find the scriptie. I told him, "I have the only copy, and hope that one day it will be published." It just so happened that Mr Prins works for a Belgian evangelical publishing house named **EVADOC**, which got started last autumn. They aim to publish two volumes per year. So I went to visit him, and there is a possibility that, after thirty-six years, the scriptie will get published. If this works out, it will be EVADOC's first published work.

STRASBOURG, FRANCE (on the home front) — Our weekly meetings (see photos) with the former Muslims continue. The attendance varies from week to week, depending on the wintry weather and other circumstances. We have been studying the book of Ephesians. This gives us a good opportunity to highlight the point that our behavior has its source in Christ. It is a joy to see the depths of insight in some members of the group, and many of the questions that they ask really make one think about the true meaning of the Gospel as it applies to new converts from a Muslim culture. We spend a lot of time in worship and praying for specific needs: family, finances, health, and the conversion of unbelievers. Some of the group will be involved in a special outreach next summer in **Strasbourg** that is

being organised by **Life Agape Mosaic (a branch of Campus Crusade)**. We are believing God for great and mighty manifestations of His glory. I have also talked with the group about my ministry in francophone Africa, and a few have expressed their desire to accompany me.

KINSHASA, CONGO — Just four months to go for the May 17th Festival, followed by two four-day campaigns in **Matadi** and **Boma**. I will be grateful to those of you who can help me raise \$8,000 for this endeavor. We want to include some humanitarian relief and also make a short DVD, and we want to purchase a projector and a laptop for film showings. Of course the actual cost of this project is much more than that amount, but it is a partnership in which the local churches are doing their part.

HAITI — Let us continue to pray, act, and believe that out of this horrendous tragedy, God will bring blessings. I talked with some Haitian members of the Baptist church here who lost relatives in this earthquake. The church is praying and working out ways of contributing to the relief efforts from France. Before the end of 2010 I hope that I will be able to make a trip there myself.



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Thank you for caring, and for sharing in
this ministry as the Lord enables you,

Bill Thomas