

September, 2010



Dear Support Team,

We hope this finds you well and having had a wonderful summer with family and friends.

We've had a great summer at The Bridge: helping with missions teams, leading worship, preparing for autumn small group ministries and a big September 'PR' push. We'll have more news about what's going on at The Bridge, the Worship Institute and arts ministries soon. However, with this letter we wanted to take this opportunity to share the details of a recent turn of events that has affected where we will live and how we will do ministry.

As you may remember, we arrived in Europe June 1, spent the first two weeks in Belgium doing 'legal stuff' and then traveled to Paris to join The Bridge team. We were fortunate to be able to stay in the home of some friends who were in Holland on a short-term work assignment. In late July, however, we received news about our legal status that affected our plans to live in Paris.

As we've mentioned in previous letters, one of our primary prayer requests has been for the maintenance of our legal status in Europe. It's not always easy to get - or keep - visas, so this is a critical priority for us. Although we've resided legally in Belgium for nine years, we've always known that getting a missionary visa in France would be difficult for us as independent missionaries. Because we've been in Belgium long enough, our plan was to return, apply for Belgian citizenship and enter France as EU citizens, bypassing the French visa system. (We would not give up our US citizenship, but rather be dual citizens, something that several friends of ours have done in Belgium.)

However, our plan didn't go as we'd hoped and in August, we had to rent a house in Belgium in order to keep our residency visas. As you can imagine, this was an unexpected turn of events and caused us to step back and ask God, 'What's going on?' We've spent the past few weeks dealing with that question and discerning God's will in all of this.

It's a real positive that in Belgium, we have great favor with the Belgian authorities in terms of residency visas. We've just received our five-year cards which means we don't have to apply for visas here again until 2015. That's a big deal.

Conversely, it's a real concern to us that after exploring several school possibilities in Paris, we still lack a viable high school option for Nick. And while home schooling is legal in France, it invites intrusive regulation by the government...an unpleasant situation to say the least. In Belgium, we'll

need to register Nick's home schooling status with the authorities, but they're much more relaxed about it...a definite plus. In addition, there is a great Christian home school group we can join.

So, with these two things in mind, we've come to the conclusion that for now, God is leading us to base in Belgium and commute to Paris on weekends.

So how is this going to work? We will commute to Paris for 2-3 days most weeks. On the days we're in Paris, we'll participate in services, staff meetings, lead life groups, and rehearse with the worship team. On the days we're in Brussels, we'll work on office and communication projects for The Bridge; organize European Worship Institute events for Belgium, France and Holland; and plan artistic workshops, events and outreaches for both Brussels and Paris. The process will require careful time management and coordination of ministry activities, but we believe it will work.

We wanted to communicate this to you so you can know how things have worked out and that we are still committed to The Bridge project as well as our other mission initiatives. It just looks different than we thought it was going to. We'll keep you posted on how it goes.

In closing, we want you to know that we're thankful for you, our faithful supporters, friends and prayer partners who stand with us. We'll have a *Coeur a Coeur* out soon with more news and photos.

Until then,

Jeff & Kathy Slaughter

www.chezslaughter.com

P.S. Calling All Supporters...If you've supported us financially in the past and have had to stop for some reason, we'd love to have you back on our team. Or, if you have yet to jump on board our financial support team, we'd love to have you as well. We have a current budget deficit of more than \$700 - which means this is the part that we trust God for each month. Often, He provides miraculously...but we do live on the edge. If you'd like to rejoin - or join - our support team, it would be a great encouragement and help to us. All gifts are tax-deductible through Cornerstone International's 501c3 status. Thank you for your consideration.

Cornerstone International

PO Box 5896

Jackson, MS 39288





Calling All Supporters

Join - or rejoin - our support team and partner with us in these ministries:

The Bridge International Church
The European Worship Institute
Artistic Events, Workshops & Outreaches

Will you partner in ministry with us?

- I will pray for you
- I will join your support team:
Monthly pledge: \$ _____
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Thank you for your consideration!

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