# PRAYING FOR

# APRIL 27 - MAY 6

∎wester∩ europe

Praying for the Vetherlands

We're so grateful that you've chosen to pray with us over the next 10 days! We hope that through this guide you learn a bit about the rich culture in the Netherlands and the work being done there to further the Gospel. We're praying that Jesus would do mighty things in this unique nation - where bicycles outnumber people, and the vast majority of the Dutch are headed in a direction away from God. We're praying that He would turn individual hearts back towards Himself and that people would have the courage to go against the grain in a culture that stresses blending in, echoed in the common admonitions "Be normal!" and "Don't stand out!" We're praying also that, as you read, the Lord would give you His heart for the Dutch people and that you would continue to think about and pray over the Netherlands long after these 10 days have passed!



## Lang Leve de Koning! (Long Live the King!)

Spring is in the air! The sun has finally begun to pierce the low-hanging, grey winter clouds. Every man, woman and child is wearing orange as they peruse the nationwide flea market, where sidewalks are lined with spread-out blankets displaying worn or outgrown items for sale. Neighbors chat about the prevailing annual topic: "Where's the royal family going to visit this year? Do you think they'll visit up north in Groningen? If they come to our city, maybe we can catch a glimpse of them!" Everywhere you look, there are orange shirts, orange banners, orange face paint, even orange pastries to eat! Koningsdag (King's Day) is a massive national celebration held every April 27th to honor the king on his birthday. The whole country spills out into the streets to take part in the day's activities. It's startling to ponder how over 17 million people so fervently and unreservedly celebrate a temporary king that most will never know personally or even meet - while less than 4% of the population recognize Jesus as their true King. Dutch monarchs hold no power in government and give no tangible benefit to the average citizen, yet the masses throw a party for him. Meanwhile, Jesus, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, reigns omnipotent and holds the universe together, but 96% of the Dutch people have rebelled against Him. The Dutch king has no say in policy decisions, yet he is openly honored by dousing everything in orange. Jesus laid His life down for every one of the 17 million Dutch people, yet He continues to be misunderstood and ignored. Nevertheless, Jesus is calling the Dutch back to Himself as their right and true King! He doesn't want an annual outdoor party, however He asks for all of our lives as we daily die to ourselves and follow Him. One day, we'll behold the marriage supper of the Lamb, and every Koningsdag celebration combined will pale in comparison to the festival held then! Would you pray that the Dutch would be at that celebration in masses, having turned their lives over unashamedly to Jesus like they turn out for Koningsdag? On that day, instead of a sea of orange, we'll all be dressed in white robes crying out to the true King: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." (Revelation 7:10)

#### Mark 8:34-36

Then He called the crowd to Him along with His disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?"

- That God would open up your heart for the Dutch people in the Netherlands, to feel what He feels for them His heart breaks for this nation where the largest religious category is "un-religious" (42.5%).
- That the "scales would fall from the eyes" of every individual so they would see the Truth and that hardened hearts would be softened to hear Jesus inviting them to take up their cross and follow Him
- That the small minority of current believers would be unreserved in their love for Jesus and would have courage to introduce others to their King

# **The Secular Worldview**

Let's take a stroll through the historic town of Maastricht in the Southernmost tip of the Netherlands. After passing the very modern landmarks of McDonalds and Burger King, we round the corner and are met by a towering, gothic cathedral built more than 700 years ago - a massive testament to the far reach of a politicized Christendom, with historical significance to both Catholics and Protestants. Perhaps we open the large wooden doors, curious to experience a worship service or the hushed weight of God's presence that often lingers in such beautiful places. What we find, however, is the bustling commerce of a modern bookstore, complete with a gleaming coffee bar. The Selexyz Dominicanen bookstore has resided in this repurposed place of worship since 2005, but before that the church was used as a warehouse, an archive, and storage space for bicycles. At least one-fifth of the Netherlands' 6,900 church buildings have been converted for secular use - as vacation rentals, apartment complexes, ice skating rinks, even gyms - with hundreds more to follow in the coming years simply because they're sitting empty.<sup>1</sup> Similar to how these churches have been gutted, stripped of their original godly duties and some would even say freed from the "confines of archaic religious purposes," an overwhelming majority of Dutch people have stripped their hearts of any trace of God, celebrating not freedom of religion but freedom from religion. In fact, 75.5% of the population say that religion is not important for their daily lives.<sup>2</sup> "Liberated" from their need for God, the remaining way to make sense of the world is to prioritize the Self and allow life to revolve around one's own preferences and desires - a worldview called Secularism. It may not have its own temples or churches, but it's a belief system, nevertheless, that provides a framework for living (making decisions, choosing good over bad, relating to others). As with any religion, no two secular persons look the same (take a look at the next page for more details). Our mission field is diverse! This is the context in the Netherlands, where only 4% of people would say they have a personal relationship with Jesus, and the vast majority go through life never personally knowing a follower of Jesus who could share the gospel with them.

#### Isaiah 65:1-2

I was ready to respond, but no one asked for help. I was ready to be found, but no one was looking for Me. I said, "Here I am, here I am!" to a nation that did not call on My name. All day long I opened My arms to a rebellious people. But they follow their own evil paths and their own crooked schemes.

- For the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts and minds of the Dutch, planting a growing dissatisfaction with what the world offers through Secularism and deepening an ever-increasing hunger to know God
- 🚝 For people to come to the end of their own strength and realize their need for a Rescuer someone stronger & wiser than they are
- 🚝 For signs and wonders that will grab the attention of skeptics and spotlight the life-changing, resurrecting power of Jesus
- For God to call ministers of the gospel to serve in the Netherlands so that the 96% who are lost could have an adequate witness of Christ

#### **Types of Secular People**

Though the minority, some are **radical** in their dismissal of God and spirituality, such as staunch atheists, denying any reality beyond that of human material experience.

Others are committed to a **traditionalist** identity rooted in cultural religion; for example, they may celebrate Catholic traditions such as infant baptism but without any Christian moral behavior or connection to God.

Those with a **pragmatic** approach acknowledge there may be a spiritual being that hovers in the unknowable cloud beyond human reason, but most live as if God does not exist. Instead they ascribe to '*ietsisme*' (a Dutch word literally translating to 'something-ism'), which refers to a sense of spirituality or 'faith without religion.' A common sentiment is: "If there is a god out there, he has little to do with life as I know it."

> Still many take a somewhat **spiritual** approach to "Project Self." They may combine a traditional form of Christianity that they learned in their youth with a New Age belief system, borrowing practices such as meditation or mindfulness to achieve goals of higher self-esteem, emotional stability and authenticity. Nevertheless, these spiritual beliefs do not dominate their lives, provide a firm guide for behavior or give them purpose. The individual self still reigns supreme as the moral decider and purpose-creator.

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# **The All-Sufficient Self**

Have you ever used or benefited from any of the following: a microscope, a telescope, an artificial heart, a submarine, an eye test, a CD or DVD, a firehose, bluetooth or wifi? The Dutch are some of the most skillful engineers in the world, having invented each of the things in the list above! Most notably, however, the Dutch are known for their prowess in water management. For centuries, they've been winning the battle to contain and even reclaim land from the North Sea to enlarge their habitable land mass. They constructed 3,000 polders (reclaimed sea land protected by a series of dikes and dams) which have extended the country some 6,800 square miles - a feat considered to be one of the seven wonders of the modern world by the American Society of Civil Engineers. The Dutch pride themselves on their water engineering expertise and even have a saying, "God created the world, and the Dutch created the Netherlands." These accomplishments contribute to a common mindset: "If I have knowledge to help myself, then I don't need to look any further than myself to find solutions to my problems." The majority of Dutch people believe they are capable of controlling and perfecting their own lives. They do not recognize a need for help from God, which only serves to further augment an already highly individualistic and independent worldview. A natural consequence of extreme self-reliance is inevitably disillusionment as individuals crumble under the weight of trying to self-define, self-establish, self-control and self-improve. Loneliness, depression, suicidal thoughts, anxiety and especially "burnout" (overspannenheid) become everyday pandemics as people come to the end of their own strength. We know, however, that the Living God is on the throne in heaven, and He is able to shoulder the weight of all our needs. He desires for the Dutch to know they weren't created to walk through life alone but rather in fellowship with Him and His body of believers, the Church!

#### Jeremiah 9:23-24

Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this – that they have the understanding to know Me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight.

- 🚝 That God would give the Dutch ears to hear, eyes to see and minds to comprehend His presence and love
- That the Dutch would recognize their need for a Lord and Savior when they are at the end of their rope, wrestling through hardships and desperate for help
- That, when they are lonely, the Dutch would seek and find fellowship with authentic believers who can disciple and mentor them and bring them into community in the Church
- That pastors and believers would be equipped with creative ways to reach out to those struggling with burnout and other mental health issues

# **Tolerance & Tight Social Circles**

The Netherlands has an exceptionally diverse population - the natural outcome of having a complex colonial history, hosting the UN's International Court of Justice and being a strategic central location in prosperous Western Europe. In fact, about 22% of the population is from a background that is not ethnically 'indigenous.'<sup>3</sup>In metropolitan areas such as Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague (the nation's three largest cities), international residents comprise a marked majority.<sup>4</sup> In cities like Almere (a suburb of 204,000 just outside Amsterdam where 42% of the population have immigrant backgrounds), English is widely spoken as the common trade language. Mosques and centers for idol worship are sprinkled throughout the city, as well as kosher butchers. As foreigners are so prevalent in this city, coming from over 153 nations with approximately 181 ethnic backgrounds, they experience a greater sense of belonging here than in more homogeneous Dutch cities.<sup>5</sup> Still, those who immigrate to the Netherlands must navigate various hurdles. The government requires newcomers to demonstrate proficiency on six language and culture exams within three years of arrival. The nation has also been impacted by the flood of refugees that has swept across Europe in the last decade. Roughly 95,000 people currently reside in the Netherlands with official refugee status. Others are not registered and struggle to survive through illegal employment, as asylum seekers must prove the danger they would suffer in the country they fled. Despite a high cultural value of tolerance, relationships among the local and international community can be tension-fraught. In less metropolitan areas, Netherlanders keep their relational circles tight. Folks often complete their training or university locally, starting their careers and settling near their families. Having grown up with the same set of friends, they feel they have few relational needs beyond this social bubble. It can be challenging to break into these tight groups, as some are less open to establishing friendships with outsiders. Whether their thirst for authentic relationship is fully satisfied or not, we know that all men and women have a deep spiritual need for connection with God!

#### Psalm 22:27-31

All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before Him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and He rules over the nations . . . Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. They will proclaim His righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!

- For courage, perseverance and favor for gospel ministers as they pursue life-changing, authentic friendships with individuals and as they establish Christ-honoring communities of faith
- 🚝 For protection over refugees who are displaced and that they would have an encounter with Jesus along the road
- 🚝 For openness in Dutch hearts to new friendships with Christians
- For the multiplication of ministries and contextualized churches specifically tailored to the concerns of those from non-western backgrounds who are seeking Truth

# Train Up a Child in the Way He Should Go

Modern secular culture does not champion the innocence of its children. Sensually graphic photos routinely advertise everything from phones to food, boldly displayed in digital flashing roadside billboards. A worldview that vigorously emphasizes individual liberty propels parents to permit their children to be exposed to temptations and to entrust them with weighty choices at a very young age. As a result, there is a profound loss in this secular culture of confident, guiding voices in the lives of teenagers. In the Netherlands, where soft drugs became legal for sale in coffee shops in 1971, 35% of high school students use marijuana regularly, and 72% binge drink.<sup>6</sup> When strong input from parents and mentors is absent, temptations can quickly turn into addictions that entangle and steal hope. Outreach programs such as The Gate, a part of Teen Challenge in the Netherlands, reach over 1,500 adolescents each month across three different locations. Their goal is to have one foot in the church and one foot in the community, building a bridge for teenagers who wouldn't come to a traditional youth service in a church. Some locations even attract a handful of high school interns each year, most of whom are not Christian and work at The Gate because they're interested in social work. One of these interns, Gwen\*, was not a Christian but was open to talking about faith, God and what it meant to know Jesus intimately. She worked at The Gate three afternoons a week, so the missionaries and local church volunteers were able to spend time building friendships with her, living out their relationship with Jesus in front of her. Because of this connection, Gwen eventually accepted an invitation to a Friday night youth service at the local church. In the middle of the service, she suddenly jumped up and ran out in tears. When someone caught up to her and asked if she was ok, she simply replied, "I have never felt love like this before!" Community outreach ministries take Jesus to these young Netherlanders rather than waiting for them to attend a church service. People who are struggling with drug, alcohol or other forms of abuse - along with those who are hurting from depression, suicidal thoughts and other forms of personal torment - can encounter Jesus, the Great Physician, through everyday experiences because of ministries like Teen Challenge.

\*Name changed for privacy

#### Lamentations 2:19

ay 5 :

Arise, cry out in the night, at the beginning of the night watches! Pour out your heart like water before the presence of the Lord! Lift your hands to Him for the lives of your children, who faint for hunger at the head of every street.

- For ministries such as Teen Challenge to have favor at both local and national levels that they would be a welcomed presence in communities across the Netherlands
- 🚝 For those who struggle with addiction and substance abuse to find hope and freedom in Jesus
- That God would raise up Christian young people in the Netherlands to live boldly for Jesus and to make a Kingdom impact in their generation

# **The Next Generation of Culture Shapers**

A country's future is primarily forged at its universities and training institutes, as the next generation of politicians, care-givers and workers are shaped and launched into the workforce. Currently, there are three established Students for Christ ministries (similar to Chi Alpha in the USA) focused on reaching this crucial age group. The task remaining is daunting, as some 300,000 students study in 13 major universities across the nation, grappling with a melting pot of philosophies and worldviews with little to no interaction with authentic Christ-followers. These students are future lawmakers, business men and women, lawyers, teachers, husbands, wives and parents. They will soon move into areas of influence where their voices can shape families and nations. What if they went into those areas knowing, loving and following Jesus? What could happen to a family if parents were devoted to raising their kids with the knowledge of who Jesus is? What could happen to a country if the future lawmakers were dedicated to seeing God's Kingdom built here and now? These university years are a critical time to reach this next generation with the gospel as they're wrestling to determine what they think about the world and what place they want to take in it. We're asking God for a fresh outpouring of His Spirit on these university campuses that would draw students to be reconciled with Christ during these key, formative years and that would instill in them a vision to serve as His ambassadors who are called to go and make disciples!

#### 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to Himself through Christ. God has given us this task of reconciling people to Him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And He gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation! So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making His appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"

- That a generation of university students would encounter Christ, be discipled and be sent out to make other disciples
- That future lawmakers, politicians, teachers and others going into the workforce would be transformed by the gospel and be cross-carrying disciples, reaching the world from where God sends them
- For pastors and missionaries to be raised up from the universities in the Netherlands, who would put their own ambitions aside to unselfishly follow Christ to the ends of the earth
- That Students for Christ ministry groups would be fruitful and saturated by the Holy Spirit and that God would raise up and anoint student leaders within SFC

# Awakening in the Local Church

Protestant faith in the Netherlands has a rich history steeped in the Word and the Lordship of Christ. Since the early 1900s, several spiritual awakenings have swept through the country and revitalized waning congregations. As Secularism's phenomenal rise has gripped the continent in the last 50 years, however, historical churches throughout Europe have become increasingly formalized, hemorrhaging adherents and causing "church" to be seen as "irrelevant" for daily life. With a stark hunger for the Spirit's movement and a desire for revival, the Dutch Assemblies of God formed in 1966 and was strengthened in 2002 by joining with two other Pentecostal movements to form a coalition called the VPE. With 120 congregations and 200 pastors and ministry workers across the Netherlands,<sup>7</sup> the VPE is committed to spreading the Gospel through the local community of faith – by serving in their cities, reaching out to their neighbors, training pastors and planting new churches. By multiplying church communities, Christian workers can serve, reach, train and plant in even greater numbers! With this aim, the VPE's church planting goal is to establish 100 new churches in 10 years. Due largely to the influence of Secularism and "post-Christian" culture, the majority of Dutch people are slowly drifting away, unreached and unengaged, completely disinterested in church. We are praying that these newly planted churches across the Netherlands would capture the attention of the Dutch and awaken them to their deep need for God. Among the existing churches in the nation, we are praying for revitalization and a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Pastors can be discouraged by dwindling numbers and apathetic members. They must also fight against the growing desire in people to isolate and untether themselves from community - natural results of living through a pandemic that forced physical distance between people. We are praying that VPE churches across the Netherlands would flourish in unity on the revelation that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, and that the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it!

#### Matthew 16:15-19

"But what about you?" [Jesus] asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, ". . . this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by My Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

- That discouraged VPE pastors would be strengthened with joy and hope in times of government restrictions and that the local church would find creative ways to not only reach their faithful congregants but also those who are outside of the church
- For healthy relationships among local church leaders, missionaries from different organizations and ministers from different cultural backgrounds partnerships characterized by unity, humility and love
- For church planting efforts in the Northern regions (the most unreached), that the Lord would raise up new pastors and planters who would go with passion and vision

# **Dodenherdenking : Remembrance Day**

In stark contrast to the joy and frivolity of the kermises (carnivals) and countrywide yard sales of King's Day, May 4th stands out for its solemnity. Like much of Europe, the Netherlands still lives in the shadow of the horrors and atrocities of WWII, and so they set apart a day to remember. Today is that day, known locally as *Dodenherdenking* – where the nation takes time to honor the 7,900 soldiers, 92,000 civilians and 106,000 Jewish compatriots from the Netherlands who lost their lives during WWII as well as civilians and members of the armed forces who have fought and sacrificed their lives in wars and peacekeeping missions ever since.<sup>8</sup> A palpable silence falls over the entire country at 8<sub>PM</sub> as those lost are held close in prayers, thoughts and hearts. For two minutes, public transportation stops, and radio and television stations broadcast only Dodenherdenking ceremonies. Wreaths are placed on memorials, heads are bowed and people take time to remember a poignant past. Honoring others with time and attention is a value that often gets lost in the noise and chaos of daily life, so to be in a country that makes this an annual tradition, catapulting the past into the present reality even for just two minutes, is inspiring. The depth of honor and reverence is moving. Today we want to also take time to remember heroes of faith who have come from the Netherlands and left their mark on the world – people such as Abraham Kuyper, a prolific theologian and active politician, who while serving as Prime Minister sought to courageously engage culture through his Christian worldview. We remember also, Corrie ten Boom who together with her family and 80 resistance workers saved over 800 Jews from the Nazis in Haarlem. She once said "The measure of a life, after all, is its donation, not its duration." Today, we pause to remember the heroic lives of brave believers who have gone before us and were willing to stand out for their faith. May we also be people who are willing to sacrifice all for our God and King!

#### Matthew 5:14-16

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

#### Pray

- That Dutch believers would follow in the footsteps of those who have gone before them, being unashamed to sacrifice and stand out from the "norm"
- That during the moment of silence that will take place today, God's voice would be heard throughout the nation and that people would remember Jesus the One who gave His life for every person
- That Christian leaders would excel in the fields where God has planted them (science, art, politics, etc.) and be effective "salt and light" in their communities

## "Nederland Is Vrij!" (The Netherlands Is Free!)

The author of *The Fault in Our Stars*, John Green, describes the "liberty" offered in the Netherlands in this way: "Some tourists think Amsterdam is a city of sin, but in truth, it is a city of freedom. And in freedom, most people find sin." Today is a national holiday dedicated to celebrating freedom from tyranny and oppression. *Bevrijdingsdag*, or Liberation Day, is a celebration of the Netherlands' liberation from Nazi occupation during WWII on May 5th in 1945. Particularly for the younger generations who don't know what it's like to live in a society that isn't politically independent, this day celebrates "freedom" in a general sense. The Netherlands is often viewed as a place of refuge or liberty, where every belief is welcome and where many things are *gedogen* (technically illegal but practically tolerated), such as purchasing marijuana in coffee shops and prostituting in designated red light districts. The problem with so much perceived freedom is that many individuals get caught in a trap that leads to addiction, anxiety and ultimately depression. Being unrestricted in pursuing superficial and short term happiness does not produce the true liberty and joy that only Jesus can give. Instead, an encroaching spiritual darkness springs out of sin's insidious bondage. People need to experience real emancipation through Christ! This comes only through forgiveness of sin and discipleship in genuine community – things which remain counter-cultural to the individualism and contractual relationships of society.

#### John 8:32

Jesus said . . . "If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

#### John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

- That the Dutch would remove "Self" from the highest place of authority in their lives and put the true King on the throne who can liberate their souls from bondage
- 💳 That believers would surrender to Christ's Lordship in all aspects of their lives
- That people would experience Christ's freedom in all areas (from the bonds of sin, addiction, anxiety and depression), so they can experience joy and abundant living

# **Stepping Out of Darkness Into Light**

Freedom from oppressive Nazi occupation has been celebrated across the Netherlands over the past few days. At the stroke of midnight before Liberation Day dawns, a single torch is lit from a perpetual flame in the city of Wageningen, the site where German forces signed a statement of surrender to end WWII. As that single beacon flickers across the square, committed individuals step forward to receive a part of the flame. Over the next several hours, 1,300 torchbearers will carry the flame in relay and race arduously for the honor of lighting freedom fires in 200 municipalities across the nation. At Calvary, Christ voluntarily stepped forward to purchase eternal freedom for all who are willing to surrender to His Lordship. He wants to liberate those held captive by a fear of failure, immobilized by apathy or lost in the fog of New Age and mystical religions. His desire is to free those lured by false "liberty" into denigrating sexual bondage and drug addiction. He longs to be reconciled with 17.5 million Dutch people, leading them from overwhelming darkness into His healing light. We are asking God to raise up 1,300 "torchbearers" who would spend themselves in weekly intercession for the Netherlands over this next year. We are believing for 200 new full-time workers (both missionaries and local church leaders) to be raised up in the next five years. May Christ's authentic freedom multiply like wildfire throughout this nation!

Would you commit to being a torchbearer in intentional prayer for the Netherlands this year? Visit tiny.cc/pray-netherlands or scan the QR code to the right to join the race.



#### Romans 10:14-15

ay 10 :

But how can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!"

#### Pray

- That 1,300 torchbearers would commit to weekly intercession for the Netherlands in 2023. May we "saturate the ground" in prayer and plow up hardened soil in preparation for harvest!
- 🚝 That God would sovereignly call people to spend their lives as missionaries in the Netherlands
- 🚝 That Dutch people of all ages would be called to serve as pastors and ministry leaders who reflect Christ's true character

🚝 For innovative discipling, training and coaching strategies to shape a new wave of laborers

Praying for the Vetherlands

We want to encourage you to keep on praying for the Netherlands throughout this year. At the end of Ephesians Paul tells the church how they can pray for him, and we want to faithfully continue praying the same words over all believers furthering God's Kingdom in the Netherlands!

> And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Pray also for [ministers of the gospel], that whenever [they] speak, words may be given [them] so that [they] will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel . . . Pray that [they] may declare it fearlessly, as [they] should.



(thank you!)

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Thank you to the many contributors who helped put this guide together. Your love and passion for the gospel is evident in all you do!



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Praying for the Netherlands

#### Footnotes:

- 1) www.trouw.nl/nieuws/een-op-de-vijf-nederlandse-kerken-is-geen-kerk-meer~b033cc0f
- 2) culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/dutch-culture/dutch-culture-religion#dutch-culture-religion
- 3) www.worldatlas.com/articles/ethnic-groups-in-the-netherlands.html
- 4) opendata.cbs.nl/statline/#/CBS/nl/dataset/70748NED/table?fromstatweb
- 5) www.english.almere.nl/the-city-of-almere
- 6) en.teenchallenge.nl/go/about-us/netherlands
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- 8) ww2db.com/country/Netherlands