

24 November 2008

Dear

Hello from Belgium. We hope this letter finds you well. We are writing to you because of your attendance at International Baptist Church in years past. We trust many good memories come to mind as you think back to your time living in Belgium and the impact IBC had upon your life.

IBC is facing the challenge of replacing the entire roof structure. As the total cost is two-thirds of our annual budget, the congregation cannot meet this challenge alone. We are personally calling upon you as a friend of IBC to come alongside us as good stewards of Christ's church.

Our roof is leaking in multiple locations. Water has penetrated into the electrical circuitry, creating fire and electrical shock hazards, most notably on the second floor where our children meet for Sunday School. Water is running down the walls, causing damage, both seen and unseen. Outside, the building walls adjacent to the roof and gutters are visibly discoloured on many corners.



Interior damage to wall and ceiling



Exterior cracked tiles

In December 2007, we elders asked a team to investigate the problem. The team sought expert advice and received a recommendation for complete roof replacement. (Tile manufacturers today offer a maximum guarantee on their products spanning 30 years. Our roof is over 60 years old.) Without a protective waterproof membrane, the freezing and thawing process currently at work will eventually cause our roof to collapse.

The Roof Team researched potential suppliers, and received five offers. Then IBC selected two final offers – one for €149,600 and one for €148,300. While we are currently raising money within the IBC body, we also realize that these efforts alone will not get us to our goal of €150,000. We hope to start the work this spring and need to pay the contractor a significant sum in advance. We would be grateful if you consider drawing alongside IBC, whose ministry provides outreach to people in a part of the world that desperately needs God's Word. If you are able to send in your gift by 15 January 2009, that would be most helpful.

As the Israelites sought to build the tabernacle for God we read in Exodus 35:4-5:

“Moses said to the whole Israelite community, ‘This is what the LORD has commanded: From what you have, take an offering for the LORD. Everyone who is willing is to bring to the LORD an offering.’”

We pray and trust God that the necessary funds will be made available. Then we will be able to rejoice, and like Moses, be able to conclude this fund raising project as described in Exodus 36:6-7:

“Then Moses gave an order and they sent this word throughout the camp: ‘No man or woman is to make anything else as an offering for the sanctuary.’ And so the people were restrained from bringing more, because what they already had was more than enough to do all the work.”

Please pray for IBC and its leaders. Please pray about how you can support our efforts by being involved in building God’s Kingdom in Europe. If you have any questions, please send them to [zamans@skynet.be](mailto:zamans@skynet.be). Thank you very much for considering how you can help.

Wishing you special joy this Christmas season,

Roger Roberts  
Pastor

Patrick Zaman  
Chairman of the Elders

**US dollar donations (tax-deductible)**

**Make your check out to “IBC Missions Inc”.**  
**Clearly note “Roof Project” on the check and mail to:**  
**International Baptist Church**  
**Attention: Treasurer**  
**Lange Eikstraat 78**  
**1970 Wezembeek-Oppem**  
**Belgium**

**Euro donations within Belgium**  
**ING account: 363-4425533-45**

**Worldwide euro donations**  
**IBAN Code: BE44 363-4425533-45**  
**BIC Code (Swift ING): BBRUBEBB**