



UNPLOWEDGROUND

Kelly and April Crull



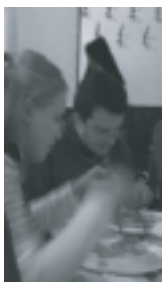
Jol Street

Welcome to the Netherlands! We hope you are in good shape because we're taking you on a Dutch bike ride to the places where we spent our time during our internship. Our first stop is just outside of Amsterdam. This is our home (see photo to left). We live with the de Jeu family. Allow me to introduce you. Steven, or "Papa", works for Transavia airlines at Schiphol airport. He will retire next year. To, or "Mum", is always busy – visiting the elderly, cleaning house, or pouring us another cup of tea. Marleis, the youngest daughter of three, is our age (23) and currently babysits full-time. She attends Crossroads International Church where we are interning and has been an excellent link to the church community. Most importantly, she says if we make a pizza for her, she'll even tell us where we can buy Mountain Dew.



Downtown

Downtown we cycle to the Turkish sector, stopping in front of a grade school. Here is where Crossroads holds its Sunday services. Inside, children leave their parents for Sunday school, and adults funnel into the auditorium. Jeannette van de Sluis Coppoolse, worship director at Crossroads, is at the front leading the congregation in song. Kelly has already played guitar with Jeannette for a Sunday service, and beginning in December he will take the lead. Jeannette gives Kelly the experiences he'll need to begin a worship ministry in Madrid, while Elizabeth de Smaele, the creative arts director at Christian Associates International, focuses Kelly on the theological and theoretical aspects of worship. Kelly and Elizabeth will be attending the Worship Together conference in England in mid-November.



Leidseplein

Turning around, we head back through the center of the city to Leidseplein, home of Amsterdam's nightlife, where a meeting for a Crossroads small group is taking place. This group has an outreach focus and its members visit refugee families (mostly Muslim) and provide activities for their children. April will spend much of her time in Amsterdam involved in groups like this. The International feel of these groups is amazing. A leadership development group that is meeting on Sundays has South Africans, Americans, Egyptians, Dutch, and English all involved. We are definitely learning about the unique and exciting challenges of working in international settings. In addition to small groups, April will be involved in teaching seminars and the prayer ministry.



The Hague

We leave our bikes at the World Trade Center and hop on a train to The Hague, home of the Queen and Christian Associates Northern-European Office. The office is in an old Dutch building on the corner with large windows. Inside, we finally meet the staff we've only been emailing for the last six months. Finally a face to put with the name. We travel to the office usually once or twice a week for training in various aspects of churchplanting such as cultural adjustment, team development, leadership, and the like. One recent training was for communication. Working with a team in a potentially stressful situation like a cross-cultural churchplant requires clear and honest communication. Even with good communication, conflict is bound to arise, so we learned positive ways of growing through conflict.



Madrid

Bikes and trains won't help with our final destination. We rely on the phone and email to keep track of our co-workers in Madrid. Praise God for their good news. Mountainview already has about 30 committed members, with 50 or so attending 3 small groups. These groups recently gathered for a weekend in the mountains to build relationships, worship God, and talk about the future of the church. Our fellow staff members will begin further training with Mountainview members this coming January. We ask for your continued prayers as we seek God's leading as a community, reach the unchurched, and search for a facility.

Kelly and April Crull
Mountainview Int'l Church of Madrid