

# Country Support

*your opportunity*  
to partner with national leaders  
and ministries

Belgium 2016 Ministry Needs: \$11,500

Funding the **Belgium Country Support Account (CSA)** will help resource the following people and strategic initiatives:

- Rent and utilities for Oostende Ministry Center
- Training and equipping of national pastors and church leaders
- Travel-related expenses to send Belgian representatives to Church Leaders Conference
- CSA promotional materials



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# Belgium



## Belgium

### Mission District

- Population: 10,449,361
- Evangelical Christians: 1.2%
- FM Work Opened: 2002
- FM Churches: 2
- Church Planting Projects: 1
- FM Membership: 73
- Ordained Elders: 5
- Overseer: Mitch Pierce



Lawrence Abagnaba and Jackie Barbier, ordained elders who serve with the Free Methodist Church in Belgium, ministering in Oostende and the surrounding area

## The Free Methodist Church in Belgium

### Origins

“Help us start a Free Methodist Church!” was the plea that came from Filipino women who had recently moved to Oostende, Belgium. This request soon turned into the formal organization of a multi-ethnic church in Oostende on March 24, 2002. At the same time, an immigrant group from Central Africa was organizing a church in Brussels. This group held their first public service on October 27, 2002. Up to their retirement, missionaries Lucien and Molly Behar worked with these churches.

### Present Ministries

The FMC in Belgium is registered with the government and became an official FM mission district in 2004. A ministry among Latinos and youth has begun in the Oostende congregation, and Bible studies are being held in other parts of West Flanders. Ordained elders Jackie Barbier and Lawrence Abagnaba lead this congregation. Pastor Simeon Rutazihana leads the Brussels congregation, which is seeking to move from a rented facility into a building of its own.