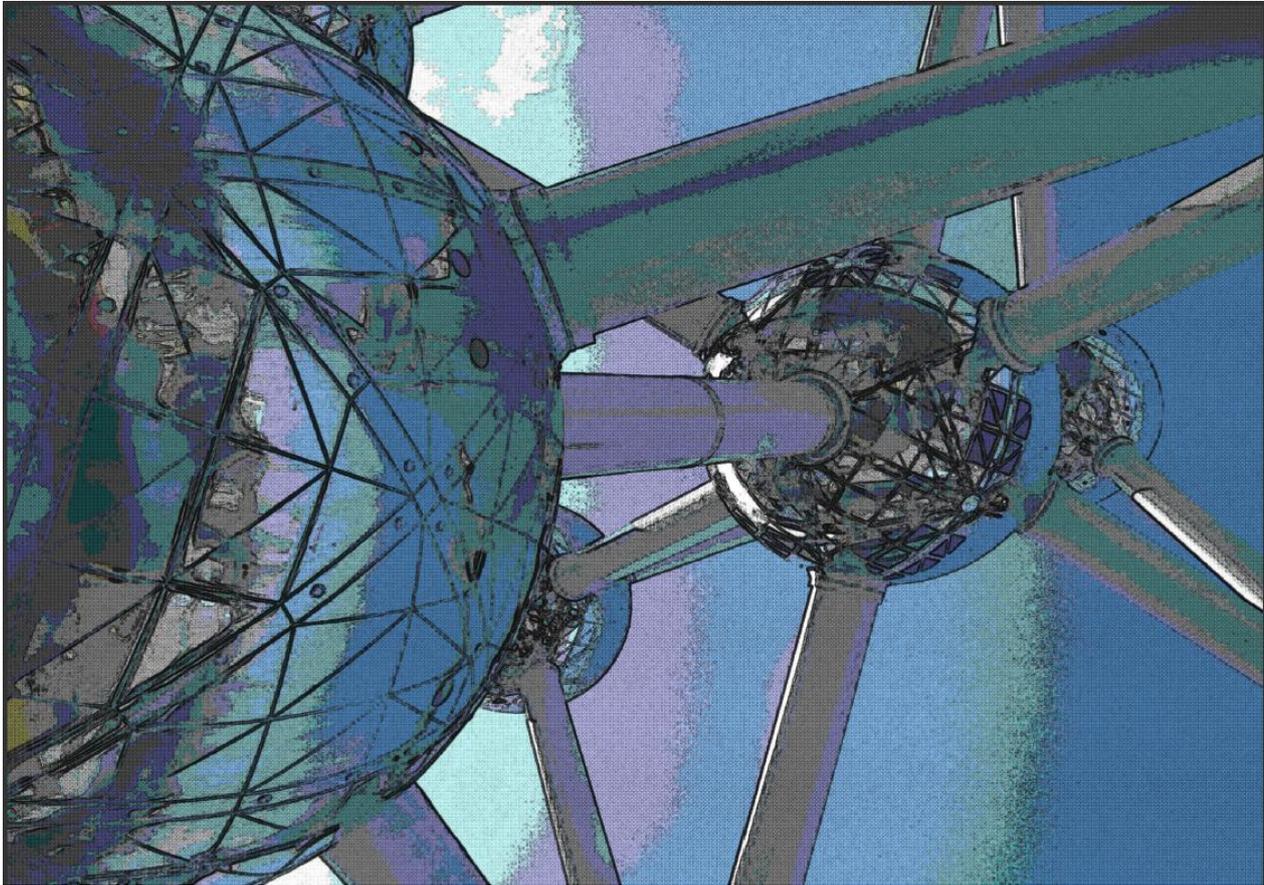


## The "Kingdom Character" of a Belgian - our identity as God meant it to be...



What is the '**Kingdom character**' of a Belgian; your identity the way God meant it to be?

A Belgian:

- 1: has **joy**;
- 2: has **humour**;
- 3: has a **servant** heart;
- 4: has a **strong voice**,  
like the roar of a lion;
- 5: is **born to build**, apostolic;
- 6: is **creative**;
- 7: is loyal and faithful, a **covenant** people.

For too long this has been taken from us. Take on this identity and begin to live it out!

[www.gebedsnetwerk.be](http://www.gebedsnetwerk.be), March 2011



To every Belgian

1 Belgian Street

1000 World Wide

Dear Intercessors,

June 2011

As a Prayer Network we have been praying for our nation and her citizens for several years now. One of the fruits of our prayers has been to plead with God to reveal **the "Kingdom Character" of a Belgian** to us. Belgium is tied up in a knot about **her identity and her calling**, probably more so today than ever. And yet we still believe that God has a plan and a purpose for everything: He was busy with it when this land came into being in 1830, despite the fact that it has gone a bit off track, and that we have two (even three!) different languages and cultures. What has come to us in prayer is this: the character that He gave to our own people, which we have summarised in the following **seven aspects**:

1. **Joy**: we like to laugh, celebrate and enjoy life (in other words "Breugelese"!)
2. **Humour** as a strong weapon: we can laugh at ourselves and know how to take ourselves lightly (Manneken Pis is a typical example); Belgium is also well-known for her cartoons (this type of humour can quickly deteriorate into black humour which just drags us down)
3. **Servant heart**: e.g. Father Damien, known to the Flemish as the "greatest Belgian of all times"; we can show this aspect of Jesus-the-Servant to the world (in reality this has often gone off balance, or has even stopped, because other nations have abused it, for instance)
4. **Lion's roar**: there's a lion inside each one of us - we *do* have a voice (we shouldn't think of ourselves as being weak or small): "Of all the Gauls, the Belgae are the bravest", said Caesar
5. **Born to build**: Belgians are "born with a brick in their stomach"; we are a nation of builders. This is an apostolic gift: laying foundations, in God's Kingdom too;
6. **Creativity**: in the natural (painting, tapestry, crafts...), but also in the spiritual
7. **Covenant people**: strong friendships, faithfulness in relationships (Belgians don't put their trust in others quickly, but once they do, they are really loyal)

Summary: Belgians are basically all joyful, humorous, obliging, bold, creative, faithful builders!

Turning away from God puts everything off balance and off course: in reality our identity is full of holes and leaks, and over the years many of our more attractive qualities have been lost, corrupted or become twisted. Only in Christ can our God-given identity be restored to us, so that we don't need to be ashamed of ourselves (any more), but (in humble self-acceptance) can lift up our heads!

The above **postcard** has been specially made for this purpose. Its intention is to keep reminding us of our Kingdom identity, so that we can *pray* it out (or "take it back in prayer") and *live* it out! You can put it in your Bible, lay it under your pillow, hang it above your desk or stick it on your mirror... The postcard is available in French and English too, and you can also get it in printed format: if you want to order a bundle of them to pass round your church or prayer group, don't hesitate to contact us and we will be happy to send them to you (a voluntary donation would be welcome).

Wishing you much joy, humour, loyal audacity and a desire to build in a creative way from our God!

The "Gebedsnetwerk" team,

Ignace, Miet, Willy, Donat, Jorien, Rein, Tim