

Dear Chavraya,

I hope that you are all well. Mieke and I arrived today on the North Sea, in Belgium by the Dutch border. It is now after 8:30 on Friday evening and it looks like mid-afternoon. We are taking full advantage of Shabbos starting so late. It will feel equally strange tomorrow night to go to sleep before Shabbos is out. As scouts are sent out to explore the land at the beginning of this week's Torah portion, *Parashat Sh'lach L'cha*, so may we go forth in all of our travels and return safely to each other. Not only to bring back report of where we have been, may all who travel bring good words to soothe all the pain of such a troubled world. As we encounter the goodness that is there in so many people and places, so may we be soothed.

With blessings of connection and hope...,

Shabbat shalom,

Rabbi Victor