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Dear friends and family,

Within a few days we shall complete our first 6 months in Holland! For us as a family, this year has definitely been a year of adjustments, uncertainty and change – with its happy, its frustrating and its lonely moments. We have now settled in the town of Eindhoven (about 210,000 inhabitants) in the south-east of Holland. Brothers and sisters in the local Christian assembly here have treated us very well: some kindly lent us their homes for about 2 months until we could find a more permanent solution, others have helped us with furniture and manpower as we have tried to turn this house into something that feels like home. We now even have room for visitors, so please feel free to call if you would like a cup of coffee, a meal or a bed!



### **The language...**

Vikki and Elsa are studying in English while taking some Dutch lesson on the side. Edward (13) and Julie (9) are studying in Dutch schools. During the first few weeks there were many tears due to the difficulty in communication, the insecurity of facing unfamiliar situations and the lack of friends.



Even now there are good days and bad days for all of us! Philip is also trying to learn Dutch, attending a local government language course 3 times a week. Like other languages, Dutch has its grammar rules, but enjoys the freedom of many exceptions to these rules... perhaps a reflection of Dutch culture? Anneke, being Dutch, is delighted to understand everything people say! But, as you can imagine, by trying to help all five of us, she normally goes to bed very tired!

### **Visits and travels...**

In July we enjoyed a Missionary Retreat in France, in August we joined a Young People's Christian Conference in England, in September Philip enjoyed 5 days in Switzerland, helping at a youth retreat. In October he enjoyed a weekend visit to Aix in France, where brothers

and sisters from some 20 French Christian assemblies joined for a day of mutual edification. Philip also had the opportunity to visit the Voorburg and CC4C

conferences here in Holland. His understanding of Dutch is slowly improving! Towards the end of November, Philip spent a week in Spain, travelling with Carlos Villamil, visiting and encouraging Colombian families who now live in Madrid and Barcelona.

### **The Future?**

We continue to pray that the Lord will guide and open doors for service, particularly among Christian assemblies. We would like to contribute positively to the assembly life here in Eindhoven, with occasional visits to the mission field and other parts Holland and Europe. After living 15 years in Colombia, Holland feels small and travelling in Europe relatively fast and easy! We pray the Lord help us to develop a healthy balance between family life, writing projects, local involvement and service further afield.



We sincerely appreciate the support and concern of many brothers and sisters. Do you also face change and uncertainty? May the old song of king David also be an encouragement to you: "You are my hiding place... the LORD's unfailing love surrounds the man who trusts in you" (Psalm 32).

With our warm Christian greetings,

- Philip & Anneke, Vikki, Elsa, Edward and Julie,