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Dear Friends and family,

Now that summer events are behind, life enters into a more normal phase. Yesterday our eldest daughter Vikki had her first day at college starting a 4 year course in Physiotherapy, today Elsa has gone to Belgium with her school for a two day induction, and Edward and Julie are back in their normal Dutch schools. A degree of regularity is quite healthy for family life!



We are now approaching 15 months of life in Holland, and it has probably been the most challenging period we've lived together as a family. Holland does not feel like home yet, but significant progress has been made. We are very grateful for the concern and support expressed by many of you, here in Eindhoven and elsewhere. Some have asked: "What we are doing?" Here are some of the ministry events of this year:

Overseas: In January and June, I (Philip) visited Colombia for 5 and 2,5 weeks. The last visit involved visiting a number of Christian assemblies and participating in a Bible conference in Pereira



followed by a 8 day Intensive Bible Study week. In April I was invited to help with the Bible teaching in 2 weeks of the Intensive Bible Study month in Kinshasa, Congo. In both countries I taught a course on "Hermeneutics: An introduction to Bible interpretation."



Consciously or unconsciously we all have a way of interpreting the Holy Scriptures as we read them. Some have a subjective approach, stressing that what matters is "what I feel as I read" or indulging in creative and improbable typology. Others impose their own theological preference on Scripture, using a rigid understanding of dispensations, or ingenuous and forced exegesis (discrediting the validity of those clear verses that do not confirm). Have you given some thought about the way you interpret Scripture? Are your hermeneutical tools reasonable and consistent?

Europe: In March Philip spent a week visiting some Christian assemblies in SW France and a long weekend in Karlsruhe in Germany. In May there was a visit for a few days in Spain (pastoral visits together with Carlos Villamil in Madrid and Barcelona) and England (a Bible conference in London). In June I spent 6 days in Switzerland visiting some Christian assemblies and contributing with 2 addresses in a one day conference at Reconvilier with the theme: "The transforming power of Forgiveness." This



is another deeply needed theme among us Christians. The theme runs close to my heart! These addresses are now in MP3 format (in English/French) and we hope to make the available soon on this website.



Last week, travelling with Vikki and Elsa, I helped with 5 Spanish Bible studies at a camp for Latin Americans in Scotland. Vikki and Elsa enjoyed very much the Latin-American singing and atmosphere!

Holland: This year we have enjoyed invitations to participate in the Christian assemblies at Veenendaal, Oost-Souburg, Arnhem and Amersfoort. In one congregation, our contribution was a Saturday afternoon workshop on "Building up the Assembly." In another, two evening seminars on "Identity, life and vision of an Assembly." When I teach, I am usually translated from English into Dutch, but now that we have lived in Holland more than one year, I am trying use the Dutch directly!



My first significant attempt was 2 one hour Bible addresses at the OASE youth (17+) Bible study camp 3 weeks ago. I used English words where the Dutch ones did not come to mind (either forgotten or have never been there!), and some volunteer in the audience would kindly provide a Dutch equivalent. The informal setting was helpful, and it became an interactive way of teaching! An added bonus is that translators cannot drop off to sleep during the study!

Eindhoven: As a family we are slowly beginning to feel part of the congregation here. Anneke helps with the Children's Bible class some Sundays, Vikki and Elsa help in the crèche and are involved in the youth group. We enjoy visiting local believers and also inviting them to our home. For special events, Anneke enjoys using her violin.

The Future: We look to the Lord for direction as to our contribution while living here in Europe. As our Dutch improves, I hope to be able to contribute a bit more to life here in Eindhoven and Holland, with 2 visits per year to Colombia and occasional visits elsewhere.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. We do appreciate the interest and support of fellow believers, especially in this time of transition.

With our love and warm greetings,

- Philip & Anneke and family.