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Dear Friends and family,

Thank you for taking the time to look at this letter. We thank the Lord for those of you who pray for us and support us in the work we seek to do for the Lord. We are very conscious that we are all saturated with information so we restrict ourselves to 2 of these letters per year, and aim to be brief, informative and hopefully interesting!



Learning the hard way

About six months ago Anneke begun to live a new experience called a “burn-out.” The excessive demands during the last year preparing to leave Colombia coupled with setting up home here in the Netherlands with all the emotional changes, have affected her energy levels, sleeping patterns and the flexibility necessary to function normally. As a family, we are learning the hard way that a healthy lifestyle requires its regular rhythms of rest. We are learning that rest is a necessity, not a dispensable luxury.

The fourth of the Ten Commandments protects the universal principle of rest. A complication for many of us in full-time Christian work is that our calling, our hobby and our passion are one and the same. Christian activities, hospitality and social engagements can be explained as “work” but also as “not-work.” The word “Sabbath” means: cease, desist, to intercept, interrupt. In plain words, whatever our occupation, we must consciously and regularly “stop.” We need those times to rest the body, recharge our emotions and refresh our spirit. Are you taking this rest principle seriously? We wish we had!



Bible teaching opportunities

During March-April, Philip had the opportunity to help with the teaching for 2 weeks during a one month course of “Systematic Bible Formation” at Kananga, in Congo, Africa. The preparation of the many studies was quite demanding, but personally enriching. The interest with which brothers and sisters receive the studies was also very encouraging.



Given Anneke’s current health situation, Philip aims to be available at home and not to engage in trips that require more than 2 nights away from home. We concluded that it was best to cancel a planned one week trip to Norway in May. Yet short week-end trips away are possible. It was a joy and a privileged to contribute at week-end events in Zurich and at La Bessonaz (CH). There have been also opportunities to help in Eindhoven and in some assemblies here in the Netherlands.

During this summer, Philip enjoyed participating at Oase 17+ Youth Camp in east-Holland. The theme was “Relationships” – with God, parents, assembly, opposite sex and with non-believers.

Later he was invited, together with Frederic Walraven, to contribute at a Family week-end camp at Doncaster, UK.

Does God bless disobedience?

Recently I took a closer look at the life of Moses. You may recall that when Israel was thirsty in the desert, God told Moses to **strike** a rock and water gushed out. Some 38 years later, the Israelites again asked for water. This time God told Moses to **speak** to another rock. Perhaps frustrated, Moses struck the rock. God was seriously displeased. Due to this disobedience the Lord did not allow Moses to enter the Promised Land. Notice that the striking of the rock did not split it neither did the striking make water flow from it. God performed a miracle in response to Moses' act of partial obedience. What does this teach us about the way our God works with humans? Positively, because He is gracious, He can use the likes of me to bless others despite our imperfections and shortcomings. That is very good news! Negatively, if I see God blessing my service or the ministry of others, I should not conclude that the Lord necessarily approves everything we do. To imitate "what works" even when God is clearly blessing, can be misleading. Clearly God prefers to bless obedience. May he Lord give us the discipline to humbly study His Word, the openness to try to listen to His voice, and the courage to act and obey.



Writing projects

Together with 6 Dutch brothers and 2 from Belgium, we have been discussing the possibility of starting a new bi-monthly publication titled: "FOCUS on the Bible - a magazine for Bible study, equipping and faith-development." We have had the joy of seeing the publication of the first 2 editions. If interested, you may check it out at the FOCUS website at www.focusopdebijbel.org .

Philip has also enjoyed writing some new material which is freely available on his website. We are encouraged by the reactions from some readers. During this summer, Simone Hafliker (CH) and Abner Trejos (Colombia) have been busy translating and adapting the website for Italian readers. If you have Italian speaking friends, you may wish to send them a link to this website: www.philipnunn.com .

Other family matters

We are very thankful to the Lord for our 4 children, and it is a joy to see them growing and developing. A few months ago, **Vikki** passed her first year exams of her 4 year BSc in Physiotherapy, and also passed her driving test - so our family car is now busier than before! **Elsa** has been studying very hard and has just begun her final year of her International Baccalaureate. Vikki and Elsa both enjoyed helping at girls camps at Oase.



Edward and **Julie** have now learnt enough Dutch to function normally in Dutch schools. A blessing and a relief to us all!

Again, our felt thanks for your interest, your prayers and support. May you enjoy the peace of God as you also seek to live for Him.

- Philip & Anneke