

Philip & Anneke Nunn
De Koppele 168,
5632 LD Eindhoven,
The Netherlands

Date: 15 February 2015

Dear friends and family,

We wrote our last family newsletter more than 16 months ago! It is now definitely time for a short update! Recently I was reading and meditating on the message of the last of the Old Testament prophets: **Malachi**. It has a Q&A style, where the Lord makes a statement and the people respond



by questioning it. Today we also question everyone and everything! But the content of this short book is also very relevant to our current modern and postmodern ways of thinking. Through Malachi, the Lord seeks to correct wrong thoughts and attitudes. He addresses 6 important life issues. The Israelites then and we today are encouraged to: 1. See God's hand in our life and be *thankful* [1:2-3]; 2. Respect God's *authority* over us (as Father, Lord, great King) [1:6-14]; 3. Be *faithful* in our relationships, especially with our marriage partner [2:10-16]; 4. Accept God's standards on *morality* [2:17]; 6. Live as *administrators* and not as owners of the blessings God gives [3:7-10]; and 6. Serve the Lord wholeheartedly – serving God is *worthwhile*! [3:13-18]. It is amazing how the way of thinking of the culture we live in unconsciously affects our values and priorities. Some 500 years after Malachi, Paul had a similar concern for the Christians who lived at the centre of the Roman Empire. He wrote, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will" (Rom. 12:2). We also need regular calls to wake-up!

Family Matters

The big event of 2014 was the birth on 24 July of our first granddaughter, **Leah** de Jager! It is lovely to see how much happiness one little being brings into the lives of so many people! We are all very thankful for this new family addition and are still

amazed as to how she manages to dominate the table conversation when present. **Julie** (16) remains busy at school and **Edward** (20) began a 4 year course on Health Care Technology last September. **Elsa** has had a difficult year. But she has now resumed with much enthusiasm her nursing studies which she hopes to complete by the end of 2015. **Anneke** enjoys her new role as grandmother, babysitting Leah 2 days a month. She continues working at her pastoral counseling course and enjoys involvement in our local Christian assembly. **Philip** completed his 2 year part-time Master's degree at Tilburg University last summer, and



used his master thesis to explore the role of women in society and in the church during the first 3 centuries. He enjoyed the challenge and is glad to have more time now for other matters! During the last 2 years, the dementia of Anneke's mother is noticeably increasing. Old age is not easy! It's a new phase in which we must learn to live with Jesus. It is a challenge for the whole family.



Ministry 2014

This year has been a challenging one for our assembly here in Eindhoven as we have faced the practical, theological and pastoral strains caused by a diverse, active and growing congregation. As a couple we help twice a year at a youth week-end, Meet and Discover, and Philip helps at the Oase youth camp in the summer. About once or twice a month there is an invitation to speak at a conference or another assembly, and during this year Philip has been involved more closely with two assemblies helping them organize leadership issues. He has also had the privilege to serve in two pastoral and Bible teaching visits, one to Colombia and one to Peru, and some shorter visits to France, Belgium, Switzerland and the UK. The book on forgiveness has now been published also in Italian and Swedish. That is an encouragement.



Again, our sincere thanks for taking the time to read this, and to those who regularly pray for us and support us.

'But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded'
(2 Chronicles 15:7)

- Philip & Anneke

