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Dear friends and family,

Year 2015 is now behind us! What did this year do to you? When the Israelites were ready to enter the Promised Land, God called them to 'be careful' and to 'remember'. We also easily get distracted, we easily forget. The beginning of a new year may be a good moment to take stock and focus. "Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today... Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years..." (Deut 8:1-2). Am I being *careful* in my study and application of God's Word? It is easier to simply repeat what we have always heard



or done, or simply follow some new popular theological trend. We should be *careful*! But there is more. The Lord would also have us reflect on our experience with Him. I find it so easy to forget how the Lord answered that urgent prayer, how the Lord spoke to me through a Bible text, a fellow believer or in some other special way, how the Lord has provided, cared for and blessed me, how He has used me in some way to encourage or be a blessing to someone else. Taking time to *Remember* our experiences with God enhances our joy and strengthens our faith.



### Family Matters

We feel we are in that in-between phase, where we carry concerns for the younger and the older generations. Anneke's mother suffers from advancing dementia. Philip's father was hospitalized a couple of times over Christmas period with a burst artery above his ear. What does it mean to "honour your father and your mother" (Ex 20:12, Eph 6:2) as they grow older and weaker? As to our children, **Vikki and Steven** are expecting their second child next month, and are busy preparing to change house 2 weeks before her due date! **Elsa** is blessed with Robert, a new friend in her life. She looks forward to graduating as a nurse within a few weeks. **Edward** (21) continues with his studies and enjoys using his musical talent (piano and base guitar) in some Christian meetings. **Julie** (17) hopes to finish high school next summer, and is studying very hard. She would like to study midwifery – an if possible, take a year off to explore the world and do something useful!



### Travels and Ministry

Thankfully Anneke's health has remained reasonably stable during 2015. She has felt strong enough to keep home going and continue her involvement in our local church. As a couple we were able to travel to Cambodia (March) and Kyrgyzstan (June) to seek to be an encouragement there. Locally, together with another 2 couples, we ran a Marriage Course for the first time – which we plan to repeat in 2016. It is an interesting





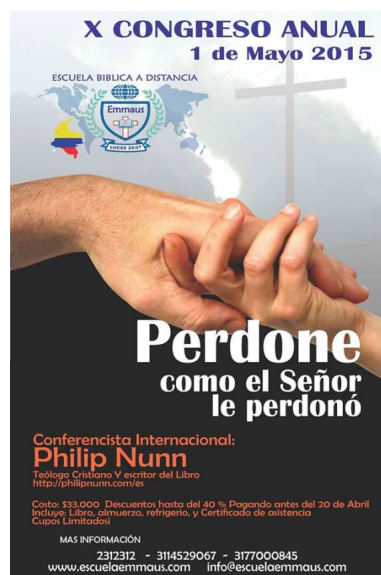
challenge to find ministry opportunities where we can serve *together* as a couple. We notice that such teamwork strengthens our marriage – and is also a source of joy.

Last December Philip travelled together with Steven to Peru for 2 weeks, visiting some churches and helping at the Christian hospital Diospi-Suyana (they usually in need of medical and admin staff, and with a new radio/TV station starting in June 2016, they also need Christians some experience to run it – interested? Check out their website). It was a happy experience. In April Philip travelled alone to Colombia. It was not an easy trip – it had some heavy moments. But this trip had two very encouraging highlights: the two hours of prayer for individuals in Pereira Centro Bíblico assembly at the end of the Sunday morning service and the ECS-Emmaus one day congress in Bogotá on the theme of Forgiveness. Somehow one felt that God’s Spirit was doing something in people during these times of teaching and prayer. The fact that we little

beings can sometimes be used by Almighty God to do His work in people is humbling but also exhilarating!

### Written Ministry

Does your faith need reasons? Last November Philip’s new book ‘Reasons to Believe’ was published in Dutch here in Holland. It is written to help open-minded non-Christian seekers, and also for Christians who from time to time have serious doubts about their faith. A publisher in Germany has



shown interest in the German translation and I am still looking for possible publishers for English, French and Spanish. Of everything I have written, my writings of forgiveness generate most readers-response. Like that of a porter at the hospital in Peru last month who when we first met said, ‘thank you for your Bible course on Forgiveness. We applied it and it saved my marriage’. Such responses fill my heart with gratitude. They make the lonely office work feel worthwhile. During 2015 the new correspondence course, ‘Forgive as the Lord Forgave You’ was printed in Colombia, Peru and Holland. If you would like to print it and use it in your country, please get in touch!



Thank you for your interest and the time you have taken to read this letter. Our thanks too to those of you who regularly pray for us and support us in one way or another.

- Philip & Anneke