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Date: 12 July 2016



Dear friends and family,

The weather is warmer, schools are closing and many are beginning their summer holidays! Last week Anneke and I returned from a one-week Missionary Retreat in Chamaloc, France. We enjoyed being part of the organizing team, Anneke enjoyed playing her violin, and we also enjoyed the warm, open and encouraging fellowship among missionaries. Bert Nanninga challenged us with God's Word every morning, with insights from his rich experience as a medical doctor in Malawi. Here are 3 thoughts I brought home which are still challenging me:



Food for thought

(a) The 'now': Some African cultures are strongly attached to their traditions. They are controlled by their *past*. Most western cultures are constantly preparing for the next step. They are controlled by their *future*. How do I live? We were encouraged to learn to live gratefully in the *present* – as the LORD gives it to us (Mat 6:31-34).

(b) Change: It can be painful. When I am comfortable I resist change. But while on earth, *change* is a permanent reality. We see it in our churches, in society, in our family, in our attitudes – even our bodies! It helps to accept the inevitability of change, and seek to use it to grow in Christlikeness. The 'I have it', the 'I know it', the 'I have arrived' belong mainly to our future heavenly joys! (John 14:1-3; 1Cor 13:12).

(c) Excluded middle: Where the tires meet the road is where the *invisible power* of car engine becomes visible. Your mobile phone makes the *invisible power* of electromagnetic waves audible. An electric bulb makes the *invisible power* of electricity visible. Where does the invisible power of God become visible in my life and experience? Jesus told the Sadducees that they were in error because they did not know "the Scriptures or the power of God" (Mk 12:24). The Pharisees knew the Scriptures. Both are necessary.

Family Matters

As a family we have many reasons to be very thankful. **Edward** passed all his college exams and is ready to move into his third year of his studies. He is also enjoying the new freedoms associated with a driving licence! He is helping run a Christian summer camp for young boys next week. **Julie**, after hard work, has successfully completed her



high school, and has been accepted to study Midwifery in Rotterdam. She is now looking for lodgings. Can you help here? Last February **Vikki and Steven** were blessed with their second daughter, **Olivia**, a joy to us all! On completing her Nursing degree, **Elsa** was offered a 24 hour a week job which she enjoys very much. And the other BIG and happy news is that Elsa and **Robert van Hardeveld** plan to marry in March 2017.



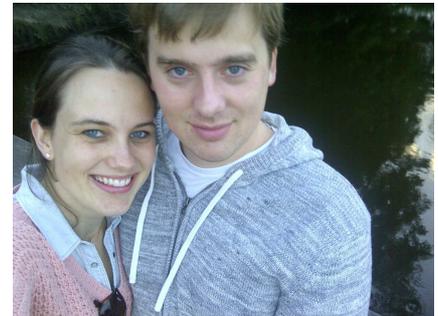
Local Ministry

As a family we continue to be involved in the life of our Christian assembly, De Bron, where Philip serves as one of the elders. Together with some other couples, we ran a marriage weekend last January, followed by a 7 evening marriage course. Every marriage can get better! That is also our experience. After 8 years, Anneke stopped teaching at the KidsClub. Together with 4 other local Spanish speakers, we have started a monthly Spanish fellowship and Bible study group. We enjoy this!



Travels & Ministry

We feel happy and honoured with the invitations to teach the Word in different congregations here in Holland and abroad. In April Philip visited in SW France (Orange, Aix and Valence) and in June he spent a short week visiting in Switzerland. An interesting new challenge was to speak on 'Sickness and Healing' at an inter-church Family day in Roermond, south Netherlands.



Writing and Publishing

From time to time Philip feels inspired to write an article or a vitamin (a one-page reflection) which is then placed on his website. On average, this website receives 500-600 visits per month, 2000-2500 pageviews. Philip's latest book, '**Reasons to Believe**', has been an encouragement. It was published in German last April and will be published by TSP in the UK next month. It has been translated into French and Spanish (we are seeking publishers for these – can you help here?) and is currently being translated into Russian. This book has been written to help open-minded non-Christian seekers, and Christians who from time to time have serious doubts about their faith.

Again, 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