

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

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Dear friends and family,

It has never been easy to swim against a cultural current. The author of the Biblical letter to Hebrews reminded them of their exemplary behaviour in those earlier days, when they stood firm in the face of suffering, when they were insulted, persecuted and thrown into prison and yet joyfully accepted the confiscation of their property. But after sustained opposition they began to feel tired, to doubt, to lose their confidence, to want to shrink back. He strongly encouraged them to “persevere” (Heb. 10:32-39). Being a Christian in the West today is becoming more and more difficult. We are not used to paying a price for our faith. Today, those who endorse long held Judeo-Christian moral principles encounter growing ridicule and opposition. After sustained social opposition we can also begin to feel tired, to doubt, to lose confidence and be tempted to shrink back. Recently, in my daily devotional time, I was greatly encouraged by an expression in a prophetic chapter: “... but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action” (Dan. 11:32). The key to persevere under adverse conditions is to know our God... yes, know that He is gracious and holy, loving and jealous, but also know that He is with us in the struggle – we are not alone.



Family matters: The big recent family event is the birth of our third grandchild, *Simeon Philip*, born in Peru on 30th August. We are all itching to meet him next summer! **Steven & Vikki** have been serving the Lord in Peru for nearly one year now, helping out at the *Diospi Suyana* Christian hospital. **Robert & Elsa** have also moved to Peru for 6 months to be available to help where needed. **Edward** is on his last year of studies and is currently waiting for a replacement heart valve. **Julie** is back from her 5 months in Mexico and is now studying Human Resource



Management – and enjoying it!



Travels and ministry: As usual, a fair amount of our time is devoted to our local church here in Eindhoven and to visiting some assemblies in the Netherlands. Philip tries to not be away more than 2 Sundays per month. During 2018 he had the joy of ministering in assemblies in SE France in February and SW France in October. In April Philip visited India, together with a Dutch brother, Peter van Beugen. It was encouraging to be present at a conference in Guntur attended by more than 20,000 people, most of them converted Hindus. God is clearly still at work calling many to Himself. In some parts of India there is much persecution. In other parts Christians enjoy relative freedom. We also visited Daniel and Louisa Nunn, who were serving the Lord at Hebron School in Ooty.



As a couple we greatly enjoyed a 5 week trip to Colombia in June, followed by a family visit in Peru. We visited homes, assemblies and special events. Among the highlights was a weekend with 52 couples – where teaching was focused on improving your husband-wife relationship and on bringing up your children for the Lord. Also encouraging was a 2 day retreat with a group of 18 Christian teachers who visit 55 secular schools in different parts of Colombia to teach the Bible and bring children in contact with the love of the Lord Jesus. They have access to about 9000 children per week (for more information and how to support this fantastic work, look on my website under Teamwork > Mission support). Anneke enjoyed the challenge of speaking before a group of about 100 sisters in Pereira. She was asked to share her experience on balancing being a mother of 4 children, being active in church life and being married to a busy man. At another event they asked her to share her burn-out experience: how to avoid one, how to detect one coming, and how to get out of one. Rest was required under the Law. We have the same bodies as those who lived under the Law. We function better if we take 'rest' seriously.



Tjits van den Brink, Philip Naan en Karlijn Goossen in café Sobellate.

LHBT tussen gezag en liefde

Christians who experience SSA (Same Sex Attraction). In September Philip was invited to represent a 'Biblical orthodox position' in a panel discussion on 'Homos and the Church' in a public setting in Ede. This was a new experience for Philip (This photo is taken by the local press).

Together with Donna, Keesjan and Gert, Philip has been working on a new Dutch website called 'vernieuwd.com'. Their goal is to encourage believers who experience SSA or genderdysforia, and also their friends and family. If you share this concern, the following two new books are worth reading: *A Better Story: God, Sex and Human Flourishing* by Glynn Harrison and *God and the Transgender Debate* by Andrew T. Walker.



Writing and Publishing: Early this year, Philip finished an eBook titled *Specific Silence – Exploring the participation of women in church meetings*. If your local church is at peace on this topic, simply ignore this writing. But if your church is concerned and exploring Scripture again on



the possible roles of men and women in the Church, you may find some useful tips here. It is available on my website in English, Dutch, French and German – under eBooks. The German version was published last October by *CMD-Christlicher Mediendienst*. Three other books have been published by *Christliche Verlagsgesellschaft mbH*. We enjoyed participating in their annual Booksellers Conference at Rehe (Germany) last September.

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