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Dear friends and family,

Recently I discovered Thomas Cranmer, an Archbishop of Canterbury who lived about 500 years ago. He was a reformer. Also a good observer and good thinker. Sadly, he was called an heretic and burnt at the stake. What I found interesting was his insight into our human nature. In short, he concluded that: "What the **heart** loves, the **will** chooses, and the **mind** justifies." Cranmer noticed that it is usually our heart and not our mind that directes our choices. We then use our mind to justify what we have chosen. Our mind is actually captive to what our will wants, and our will itself, in turn, is captive to what our heart wants. Cranmer concluded that good theology and good reasons are not strong enough to change a person. First the heart must change. And the heart only changes when moved by a stronger love. In short, new birth must precede new life. In Paul's words, "the love of Christ constrains [compels, controls] us" (2 Cor 5:14). A while back, Tim Keller tweeted something similar: "What the heart most wants, the mind finds reasonable, the emotions find valuable, and the will finds doable." What do you and my heart most want?



Family matters: When normal social contacts are restricted, family becomes more central. In February we were happy to welcome Aliva into the world, our fifth grandchild! With great joy we celebrated Edward and Arinda's wedding in September. As soon as it was possible to travel to the UK, we made two short trips to visit our parents, Peter and Annemarie, and other family members. We have a lot to be thankful for. This week Steven and Vikki and children return from Peru for 4 weeks. Coming January they plan to take up residence in Bogotá, Colombia, to serve with [Samaritan's Purse](#).



Local church: I wonder how future historians will describe the effect of the Covid restrictions on the spiritual health and vibrancy of the Christian faith worldwide. Fellowship, the physical meeting each other to worship, learn and care for one another, is an integral part of our christian experience. As a local church, to encourage physical meeting, we rented a large tent which is placed in our church carpark. It increases our 'safe' capacity by 70 chairs. Yes it is expensive. Yes it is not so comfortable. And yet it provides a vital function. Do you see the value of physically meeting others? Hebrews



10:24-25 encourages us to not give up “meeting together”. Be creative and explore possibilities in your local setting. Choose to break away from easy comfortable passivity!

Ministry and Gender matters: The loosening of Covid restrictions during the summer made it possible to visit and teach in a number of churches here in The Netherlands. We were also able to help at a Christian family camp in Oslo, Norway. Through our website Vernieuwd.com, we have received invitations to speak on gender identity issues at some conferences, Christian schools, churches and on Family7 (a private Christian TV channel here in the NL). God’s design for sexuality, marriage and identity is far better than what powerful trans-activists lobby for and aggressively

promote. Learning to trust in God’s goodness and to gratefully receive what He has chosen to give us (male or female bodies, height, temperament, race, talents, the definition of marriage, etc) will lead to blessing. When we humans impose our will and desires on the natural ‘flows’ we see in God’s creation, we damage nature’s well designed balance and eco-systems. Sexuality also has a God-designed ‘flow’ to it.

Literature: During 2021 Philip has written a few new articles and placed them on his [website](#). He has translated Miriam Both’s book for parents, ‘A Wonderful Plan’, from Dutch into English and revised the Spanish version. The French and German translations are now completed. We have found publishers for the Spanish and German translations. We are still looking for publishers for the English and French translations. If you have any suggestions, please get in touch.



Mission – [Christian Network School](#): We are happy to inform that the gospel continues to find entrance into some government schools in Colombia. As schools begin to open, opportunities increase. Andrew and Marianne Nunn together with Fernando Gavia have been coordinating this beautiful project for many years now. As from the end of 2021, their role will be taken over by Iñigo and Ana Cristina García de Cortázar Villamil, both teachers, who currently live in Cali, Colombia. We are thankful for their willingness and pray that this ministry may continue to be a blessing to many children.



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