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Dear friends and family,

On Saturday 15 October, we had the pleasure to celebrate our 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, combined with our 60<sup>th</sup> birthdays and our 15 years of living in The Netherlands. We were touched by the many friends that came to make this a very memorable event! For this celebration we put together a photo presentation with pictures of our childhoods, youth, marriage, expanding family... our time together in London, Toronto, Pereira, Armenia and now in Eindhoven. In the process, many memories were awakened! I wonder what our life presentation



would look like if the Lord Himself would select the photos! What pictures would He include in your life's story?



While preparing this presentation, we were reminded of some very difficult times we've lived together. But the overriding sense was of gratitude and God's grace! The Lord has been very good to us. The words of the old hymn '[Be still my soul](#)' that have encouraged us over the years, were again in our minds as we looked back and now look forward: "Be still my soul the Lord is on thy side... In every

change He faithful will remain... Be still, my soul, thy God doth undertake to guide the future as He has the past. Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake... the waves and winds still know His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below".



**Family matters:** In February, while visiting Colombia, our 6<sup>th</sup> grandchild was born: Eleanor! Steven



and Vikki and children now live in Bogotá, Colombia, serving with Samaritan's Purse. In March we were happy to meet family in the UK to celebrate our parents' 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Julie has now a permanent job in the Human Resources department of VDL and commutes to her work daily with her new scooter! This Christmas we had the pleasure of having our whole family together for 3 days!



**Local Church:** Now that the Covid-19 restrictions are long behind us, the challenge has been to return to 'normal' church life. It has become easy to stay at home on Sundays, to be passive, to be focused on ourselves. Thankfully on Sunday mornings our hall is regularly full. After a 3 years' break, last October we had our youth weekend away. We covered 4 themes: re-connecting with your friends, your family, God and your church. It was an encouraging time.

**Ministry and gender matters:** Gradually activities, seminars and invitations begin to flow again. In February we could visit Colombia for 3 weeks, in July we could participate at the Christian Festival in France, and in November a ministry weekend in Germany. The visit to France made us aware of the need for a French website to encourage a Biblical view on homosexuality and gender issues. We have now a domain, [Renouvele.org](http://Renouvele.org), and we are developing it together with a couple of contributors. We are also helping with the preparation of the next Missionary Retreat, [AMEN 2023](http://AMEN2023), which should take place in Germany next 24-28 July. If you have a heart for mission or cross cultural ministry, please get in touch!



**Videos and literature:** During this year we have filmed and made public two testimonies, that of



[Channa](#), a Christian young lady who after conversion came to the conclusion that she should end her lesbian relationships. And that of [Pieter](#), who discovered his homosexual feelings after he was married. He and his wife chose not to divorce. They valued their friendship, children and marriage vows. As Pieter put it, "The Lord brought us together and kept us together". The Russian translation of Philip's book '[Reasons to believe](#)' is being revised in preparation for reprinting. Together with a large Dutch publisher, we are working on the translation and publication of Preston Sprinkle's new book '[Embodied](#)', probably the best Christian book I have read on transgender issues and the Church.

**Changes in 2023:** Every year brings new challenges, but for us this coming year is particularly special: Our plan is to immigrate to Colombia in September 2023 for a period, if health permits, of 5 years. We are still seeking the Lord's guidance as to where to live and our area of ministry. A line in the above mentioned hymn resonates, "Be still, my soul, thy God doth undertake to guide the future as He has the past". We are looking forward to this new phase in our lives.

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*

