"I am sooooo thrilled to see you guys again!"



Dear family and friends,

Just before summer holiday we send you this newsflash from Buitenpost. We gratefully look back on a good first half of 2018. Nice things happened both in our family and Ministry.

Family

On February 18th we welcomed our 13th grandchild! What a great gift it is having such a big family. Especially when the beautiful and joyful moments are in the majority by far. And, by the way, our 14th grandchild has also already been announced...!

We are a bit tensive, because our youngest daughter and her husband will start a world tour in August 24th. They have saved enough money to travel for two years. That, of course, gives mixed feelings. At one hand we allow them the adventure and the educational experiences they gain with this long term trip. We also are grateful that they intentionally want to look for places where they can deploy missionary activities for a short or longer term. At the other, as father and (especially) mother we are a little concerned if everything will go fine and we will miss them terribly. Here, too, we know that we can place them in the hands of Father who knows what they (and we) need. Even though they booked no more than the flight and the first three nights in advance.

Biennial 2018

Every two years ECM International organizes a Biennial, a meeting for all ECM-missionaries with their families. In April we have been together for encouragement, workshops, speeches and reflection for a week. This year, the Biennial was held in Calpe, Spain. This coastal town is characterized by a high rock that stretches far out into the sea.

The theme of this Biennial was very appropriate: "Look at the Rock, discipelship revealed". We also have had many conversations with other ECM -family members and it was great to tighten friendships and encourage one another. For us it was a very nice and useful time.

Alpha

Some weeks ago we completed the Alpha course. As always it was a very special period, in which we have experienced the work of the Holy Spirit very clearly. During the final party night two participants gave a particular testimony in front of more than 35 attendees.

With ten participants it was a nice group that showed more and more connectedness with each other. After summer we hope to be able to offer them a sequel to this Alpha.



Longs for Sconnection

"Our desire in Buitenpost is to get connected to those who are looking for answers to their life questions and for whom the church isn't the first place to look for answers."

Prayerpoints:

- Thank God for all the blessings that we experience in our Ministry.
- Thank God for the Alpha course and all the conversations we had.
- Pray for opportunities for a fixed location for the Open House. Both in terms of a location and the necessary finances for it.
- Pray for protection of Martha and her team visiting the prostitutes in Leeuwarden and that it work out blessfully for the women.
- Pray that God may provide in all our everyday needs

Open House

Since November we organize Open House at our home every Wednesday afternoon and every second and fourth Sunday afternoon. On Sundays we also cooke and eat together. It is a means for us to battle to loneliness by creating a homely environment where everyone feels safe and experiences fun. And it is also an opportunity to gradually enter into deeper relationships.

At Easter and Pentecost we have held an extra Open House, which were both very well attended. We had the opportunity to tell something about what these days means for us as Christians.

Beginning this year, a childless widow who lost her husband last year cautiously took a look at our Open House. After an hour, she was gone again. Yet she came back again, kept staying longer and even once stayed for dinner. Recently she came before the official starting time inside with the words: "I am sooooo thrilled to see you guys again!".





Summer term

As we wrote earlier, we are now just about in the period of the summer vacation. We hope to go camping with our tent. Living with a mission means that we live in a dynamic environment that is constantly changing. It requires that we identify this in the right time and anticipate in the right way. That we let go of things of which we experience that it has been good and can shutdown. And at the same time looking to what God is already doing and where we can join. We want to use the coming summer term to listen to what God says to us and reflect on what we are going to do with that and how we can shape it.

Finance

We long to work as missionaries on a full-time basis and we already receive a lot of donations. Thank you very much for your support. It makes us thankful and happy and it encourages us enormously to continue with our work.

If you want to contribute, you will find all necessary data in the Colophon below.

Thank you so much for your involvement!

Amo en Martha

