

"I want to buy a Bible this week. Where can I best start reading? "



Dear family and friends,

The end of the year approaches. The days are short and grey and we are preparing for the traditional celebration of the coming of the Light of the world. Time for a newsletter because the previous dated from last summer. In the time thereafter joy and sorrow within our family alternated. But our gratitude and wonder continue to dominate. Please read on.

Family situation

On September 21, a younger sister of Martha died at the age of 58, after a serious illness. These are moments that you freeze and again become aware of your vulnerability in this life. Although it remains a blank spot on the family photo we could find comfort with the Father, who was also her Father. We believe that she is in a perfect place now, redeemed of pain and anxiety.

In the past month our son-in-law has had a risky surgery in the Amsterdam Medical Centre. Although the symptoms initially did think of a tumor, after some research it revealed not to be the case.

Growth and pruning

In John 15 Jesus used the image of the vine as a model for discipleship. A wine farmer interferes with the growth process of the vine and sometimes does things that are not seem logical: pruning. Yet it is an essential part of the growth process of a vine to eventually bear much fruit.

In the past few months we experienced such pruning a number of times. The Alpha course could not be held because of a shortage of participants. But also the 'húskeamer' living room project came for us to an end. Difference in vision resulted that from November we have Open House in our own house.

But we also experienced growth, not only in ourselves. In our walking alongside others we may witness how they are growing in discovering how God looks to at them and in their desire to get to know Jesus more (see the quote in the headline of this newsletter), in experiencing what discipleship means for yourself every day. We are grateful that two regular participants in our Sunday Meetings were baptized this summer.

Start Open House

As mentioned above in November we started the Open House project in our house. The intention is to offer a place where anyone can have a conversation or just want to be himself and feel safe, whether or not with a cup of coffee or tea. Last month we organized all kinds of creative things. Every Wednesday afternoon and every second and fourth Sunday of the month we have Open House, on the Sundays with the possibility to cook and eat together. Our dream is to have an easy accessible and approachable place in our village to have a fixed location for this Open House. A place of encounter, where you can be who you are. Where you may find answers on questions of life and Jesus if you are looking for Him.

The Weaze

Until a year ago Martha went every fortnight with a team of Hope for Fryslân to the Weaze, the "red light district of Leeuwarden". That stopped when the owners denied them access to the on-site brothels. Since a few weeks Martha and another team member gently visit again some of the brothels. Almost all women who work there were happy to see them again. We need to wait and see how long they have the opportunity to bring Light in this pitch black world.



growth and pruning.

BUTTERFLY &
European Christian Mission
December 2017

ecm
Newsletter

AMOM & DRAIJER IN BUTTENPOST
MARTHA

"Our desire is to come in connection with those who are looking for answers to their questions of life and for whom a church as a place for answers isn't an option (anymore)."

ECM-huddles

Until last summer, we led three huddles to fellow missionary workers of ECM. After the summer, it was reshuffled to two huddles with their own huddleleaders and we started a huddle with new participants. It is a great example of multiplication in the same way Jesus did.

Life in balance

Life in a way like Jesus modelled it, that is Discipleship in a nutshell. His life was a perfect example of a life that was in balance. It is our desire to live such a life. That requires a regular check to see if our live in balance and whether it is not distorted by everyday things that requires priority. Do we have sufficient

attention to UP in our personal and shared quiet time and Bible study? Is there balance in the IN with others that we are allowed to coach or with whom we are on the road together? And what about the ratio with OUT, in getting in touch with those who feel not seen, offering prayer to passers-by in the shopping street or inviting people to an Alpha course?

Finance

We would like to be busy with our mission as much as possible, and we receive many gifts, so that we can continue with our beautiful work! Thank you very much for your support. It makes us grateful and it is a tremendous encouraging for us to be able to continue with our work. However these gifts are not enough to live on and to pay the costs of our activities. Therefore we are grateful that Amo recently receives additional income from a part time job at the local Present Foundation.



the Weeze.



Creative during Open House.



Syrian Falafels during Open House dinner

Prayerpoints:

- Pray for peace in our family and to a good recovery of our son-in-law.
- Pray for enough participants for the Alpha course that we want to start in January.
- Pray for opportunities for an Open House. Pray for blessings on the conversations we have with people God brings us on our path.
- Pray that the visits to the Weeze may continue and work wonderful for the women.
- Pray for sufficient resources so that we can continue with our work.

If you do not support us we hope and pray that you want to accept the challenge of this newsletter to support us and becoming a partner / or part of our mission. If you want to contribute, you will find all necessary data in the Colophon below.

Thank you so much for your involvement!

We wish you a blessed Christmas and God's richest blessings, love and proximity in the new year!

Amo en Martha

COLOFON

Amo and Martha Draijer, founders of Butterfly, focus on discipleship and church planting in the Buitenpost area of the Dutch province of Friesland.

Amo and Martha are financially dependent on gifts. You can support them by making a donation to the bankaccount of Stichting ECM-Nederland. IBAN: NL02 INGB 0000254997 (BIC/SWIFT: INGBNL2A) citing "Fund Butterfly"

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