

*For everything there
is a season, and a
time for every
matter under
heaven.*

Ecclesiastes 3:1



Dear family and friends,

“We can close this year with gratitude and we look forward to 2022 with hope, confidence and desire.” This is how we concluded our December newsletter from last year. Now, almost three months later, you are already reading our next newsletter. We are discontinuing Butterfly's regular activities. In this latest newsletter we tell you why we decided to do this and we look back on the nine years that we have been able to do this work.

Why are we stopping?

In our December newsletter you could read about our ins and outs in the past year. It was a pretty tough year for both of us, which demanded a lot from us. In addition, our role as 'leaders' of Butterfly with the limitations that corona entailed also demanded a lot from us. We notice that it is becoming increasingly difficult for us to maintain or regain our resilience. Of course, our age also plays a role. We have therefore decided, in consultation with ECM, to discontinue Butterfly's structural activities with effect from March 1st. This gives us the opportunity to slow down a bit. Now that we have made this decision, we want to look back with you on the years that we were allowed to do this work.

How it started

Years ago, we had a desire to do 'something missional'. However the question always was: Yes, but how? You can become proficient and learn the material, but being patient and listening to God's voice and the

situations in which He puts you is also important.

The tipping point for us came in February 2013, when we both lost our jobs within a fortnight. We took a sabbatical for the rest of the year, went on an internship to England and formally started a missional initiative in January 2014 under the name Butterfly. We tried to put into practice the principles of 3DM from Sheffield (GB), propagated in our country by Nederland Zoekt.

The basis of this lies in the formation of missional communities where discipleship is central. According to the command that Jesus gave to his followers when he left: disciples who make disciples, who in turn also make disciples. And from there trying to make the connection with people in our neighbourhood or network.

How it went

We started building a community with confidence. We coached the participants through huddles and sought connection with lonely and broken people in our village in various ways.

It soon became apparent that it was not easy to put the theory into practice. The community stopped after a year and we chose to continue just the two of us. Martha visited prostitutes in Leeuwarden, we organized courses, held Alphas, and invited lonely people to our fortnightly Open House. We also huddled others on discipleship and prophecy.

BUTTERFLY &
European Christian Mission
March 2022

ecm
Newsletter

AMOMARTHA & DRAIJER IN BUITENPOST

The result

Now that we have stopped with the structural activities, it is time to take stock. What have we achieved? How many people have we converted and brought to Jesus? We have never baptized anyone and we have no idea about the rest... Luckily not.

We have invested a lot in building relationships. In order to be able to build a relationship of trust and to help each other further in life. And if that trust is then given and good conversations follow, it can make you quite proud. That's what you do it for, right? But there is only one of whom we can be proud: the Lord (2 Corinthians 10:17).

What now

We're going to take it easy. We now have more time for ourselves and our family. And we want to continue the Open House, just less frequently. We are thankful to God for the work we have been able to do in His Kingdom over the years. We have experienced God's support and love in recent years and know that He will continue to give us that rich blessing in the future. We are also grateful to all readers of our newsletters for the contribution they have made to our mission in whatever way. And with that, you have been a partner in our mission..

Sincerely in Christ,

Amo en Martha

Dear supporters of Amo and Martha Draijer,

Amo and Martha stop doing Butterfly's structural activities. That is a pity, but at the same time very understandable after the tough time they went through and the many years of work they put into their missionary project. From ECM Netherlands I am especially very grateful for everything that Amo and Martha have done, as well as for the role they have played internally at ECM. They have enriched missionary work in our own country!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you as supporters. In missions, a sympathetic, prayerful constituency is crucial. Thank you for taking on that role and for carrying Amo and Martha in prayer and giving all these years.

In the meantime, the missionary work in the Netherlands and Europe continues. Amo and Martha will no doubt continue to contribute to that, even as they slow down. And so there are many passionate Christians who give their lives for the good news of Jesus. If you would like to read more about them, please visit www.ecmnederland.nl or www.ecmi.org.

Cordial greetings,

Peter Wierenga
director ECM Netherlands



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