



For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.
Isaiah 55:8-9

DEAR FRIENDS,

Dear friends, these famous verses from Isaiah perfectly sum up my feelings as I reflect on these last few months.

FAMILY NEWS

In February Kerstin had severe stomach cramps. These turned out to be caused by gallstones. Kerstin had to receive antibiotics and the stones had to be removed. During this time, Kerstin hardly ate because of the pain and was physically very weak. After waiting for one and a half weeks, Kerstin had an operation to remove the gallbladder, which went well. The Lord had his hand in all of this, but it was hard to have to watch Kerstin suffer for two months.

Around the same time our car broke down and would have cost too much to fix. So, we had to find and buy a new car as well. God thankfully guided the whole process so that we able to buy a suitable car just in time to go on a much-needed two-week vacation in the north of France.

We are so grateful that Kerstin has recovered very well from the operation. The kids are doing really well. We enjoy the increasingly warm weather and the beauty of “our” island. So many members of our church prayed for us during these last few months. The Lord really helped and guided us in the many decisions that had to be made.

A CRAZY YEAR SO FAR

In April we had to vacate the building housing our office and storage. With the help of local friends, we were able to find a temporary solution to store our material. Please pray for the Lord’s continued guidance and provision in finding a new location in the coming year.

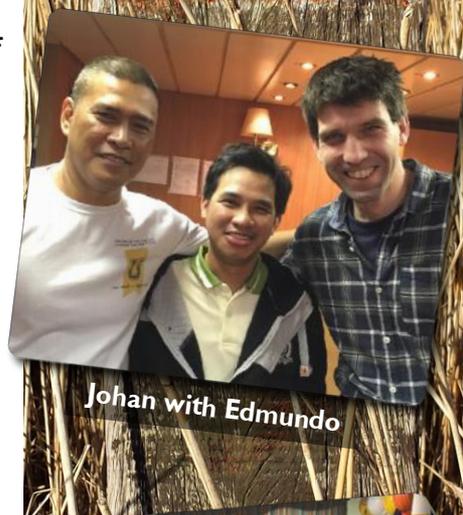
Two of the members of our local board have quit or will resign at the end of the year. We are very grateful for their faithful service. The Lord has already given us one new person, but we need to find one additional board member. Please pray that the Lord will provide the right person – a born-again Christian who loves and trusts the Lord and loves the seamen.

A NEW TEAM MEMBER

At the end of January, I was contacted through our website by a person I did not know with the question, whether he could join our team. So, I would like to introduce to you our latest team member: Johan Egas. Johan is 32 years old, the husband of Esther and the father of baby Hanna. He lives in Dirksland and is a very devoted Christian. He works as a captain on a heavy-lift vessel. His working schedule is 3 months on the ship and 3 months at home. In his spare time, his desire is to visit the ships in the port of Rotterdam as part of our team and when he is on board, he wants to share the gospel with his fellow crew members.

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He is currently joining René and me for two days each week to be trained by us during his current holiday. He is really humble and teachable and it is great to have someone in our team who knows the world of the seafarers so intimately.

A GOD WHO LEADS

I am often amazed at how God leads me to the right ship at the right time. At the end of March, Johan and I were visiting several ships in the container port. We went onboard a large ship for the afternoon coffee break, not knowing whether we would meet anybody. As we were chatting with the cook, I heard someone behind me call out my name. I turned around and saw my dear Filipino friend Edmundo. I have known this wonderful brother for many years. He is a great witness for the Lord, as he leads Bible study groups on every ship he works on. But he had neglected to inform me that his ship was coming to Rotterdam. So, this was another example of God's perfect guidance. We came back the following day and had more time to chat. Edmundo is leading a group onboard together with another young Filipino believer. They form a great team and were very happy to receive good material from us. We were so glad that the Lord reunited us after four years and Johan was encouraged through Edmundo's testimony.

A TANKER IN AN UNUSUAL SPOT

One morning I noticed an oil tanker at a container terminal. Johan and I visited this ship with Filipino crew. We were greeted warmly by the captain, who turned out to be a true believer along with two other seamen. Their names? Jesus, James and John! James comes from a Baptist background. During our first meeting, I gave him the Christian documentary "American Gospel" to watch. Through watching this movie, James realized that he was not a true believer. He could not sleep for three nights because of the conviction of the Holy Spirit. But he came to truly know the Lord and trusted in Jesus as his Lord and Savior!

Captain Jesus asked us to organize church services on their ship. So far, we were able to hold five services on board and each time the gospel has been clearly presented. Most of the men are Catholic and one is a member of a cult. Please pray that they will be saved. It is great to have the opportunity to visit them quite often and to build relationships with these men. Jesus, James and John want to continue to organize Bible studies on board when they leave our port. They need our prayer support.

The shipping company owning the ship has some legal issues which prevent this tanker from sailing. This ship normally never comes to Rotterdam, but the Lord has arranged these circumstances. But because of this situation, the men are not receiving their salaries. Please pray that the wages will be paid.

We are so thankful for your support and love to hear from you! God bless you richly!

Yours in Christ

FELIX, KERSTIN, JAKOB, EMILIE AND
HANNAH

PRAYER CORNER

Thanks:

- for the successful operation
- for the new car
- for our new team member Johan
- for the meeting with Edmundo
- for the services on the tanker
- for James' conversion

Please pray for:

- a new mission base
- new board members
- that Jesus, James, John and Edmundo would continue to grow in their faith
- Johan in his new role as father and volunteer



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