

BEACON

the newsletter of the Henrichs family



Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

James 1:17

DEAR FRIENDS,

where to begin? In this time of crisis, I am often experiencing an emotional roller coaster ride. My feelings fluctuate through the entire spectrum of emotions that relate to a crisis. I find that I cannot find stability in myself. I need an external foundation. Thankfully our great and unchanging God has given us his complete and precious Word and the indwelling Holy Spirit. He is our true Rock and our greatest treasure.

Many things that I have held dear have fallen away and my life has changed. And often I miss my normal life. But there are still so many good gifts that the Lord has given us. And you as our friends and supporters are really great gifts. We are so incredibly thankful for all that you do for us. Without your help, we would not be here and able to minister to the seamen. Thank you so much!

SEAMEN AND CORONA

The current crisis is hitting the seafarers quite hard as they have become even more isolated. They are not allowed to leave their ships to go ashore when in port. Those who are currently working onboard a ship are unable to sign off and fly home when their contract is over. This is due to the fact that many flights have been cancelled and many countries do not allow them to disembark in their ports. This means that they will have to stay weeks or months longer. Many experience extra physical stress, homesickness and fatigue. This could lead to accidents and even suicide attempts.

Other seamen are at home in countries that are under lockdown and therefore cannot leave their homes to join a ship. Many have no additional income and some could even face starvation if the lockdown continues for too long. Please pray that seamen will be recognized internationally as a crucial profession, so that they can sign off or join a ship.

For them and for us the whole situation presents a dilemma. While some seamen would especially value and appreciate our visit during this time, others are afraid that we could bring the virus on board.

WALKING NEW PATHS

For this reason, we as a team together with the SCFS headquarters have decided not to visit the ships for the time being. For the past six weeks I have been working from home. So, I spend my day in my home office and try to stay in contact with seamen, colleagues and supporters through social media, email or video call. In addition, I have taken up two writing projects that I have been wanting to do for quite some time.

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Connecting with DMG/SCFS colleagues



The first is a catechism for seafarers. This is based on the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith. It is a fun project as it forces me to think about the basics of what we believe as Christians. The second project is a booklet to help seafarers study and understand the Bible. Both books are written for the believers and Bible study leaders. But the longer that this situation continues, the more I miss the seamen.

FAMILY NEWS

For the past six weeks, the kids have been doing their schoolwork online. The school has provided a laptop for Jakob and Emilie is using Kerstin's laptop. The kids have two weeks of school holiday and the schools will reopen on the 11th of May. So, Kerstin has been a school teacher for more than a month, which has been challenging. She misses the kids that she takes care of as day-care. Our church is live-streaming its services and we really miss meeting each other.

Thankfully the Dutch government has implemented an "intelligent" lockdown rather than a total one. And in May the restrictions will slowly be lifted. We enjoy the beautiful weather and as you can see from the photos, the tulips are in full bloom and so we can enjoy God's wonderful creation and the beauty of our island Goeree-Overflakkee.

We hope that we will be able to see many of you again in the near future. Please feel free to reach out to us and either write or call. Once again thank you all so much for your friendship and support. We are all in this together. Let us serve our great king!

Yours in Christ

FELIX, KERSTIN, JAKOB, EMILIE AND HANNAH



PRAYER CORNER

Thanks:

- for the opportunities we have to reach out to seamen online
- for the beautiful weather and God's wonderful creation
- for being able to write
- for our dedicated team
- for the great support from DMG and SCFS
- for your support and freindship

Please pray for:

- the believing seamen
- wisdom for DMG, SCFS and our government
- that many seamen will read their Bibles, repent of their sin and trust in Jesus Christ
- travel restrictions for seamen to be lifted
- for me to use my time wisely Diligently for God's glory



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