

May 2010

Sharing your life

Sharing your life is the new slogan of Agape Netherlands. People – esp. here in western Europe – want to see things first before they will consider thinking about whether it's worth thinking about it. So sharing Gods love has to become a reality in our lives, not just in our words. This means at home, at work, in the stores and on the roads (both the physical and the Internet highway).



Sharing our lives on the Internet...

Social network (such as Facebook) and other methods of communication through the Internet are becoming more and more important in our culture nowadays. So, as communication dept. of Agapè and GAiN in the Netherlands we have decided some time ago to add those new media also to our ways of communicating to 'the world'. It fits with our desire to be more person oriented instead of business oriented. And since I was already the one most involved in this area I now spend a lot of my time on the Internet 'professionally'. I continue updating our corporate website, but even more time goes in checking the websites of other national staff, of different ministries and of a variety of news agencies to get interesting tidbits to put on the Agapè and / or GAiN Facebook pages.

What is GAiN?

Global Aid Network (GAiN) is a worldwide humanitarian relief and development organization. **It is part of CCC / Agapè** and is dedicated to bringing hope and tangible help to the poor and the suffering. GAiN is a registered non-profit organization. In time it has grown to become part of a diverse, global network with offices in Canada, United States, Germany, Australia, Latvia, South Korea and Holland.

Recently GAiN is active in Haiti, but last year GAiN also sent aid to the victims of the floods in the Philippines.

Doing follow-up by way a chat-session

A few months ago I (Jing) got a friend-invitation on Facebook from a Hungarian woman (meaning that she suggested to connect and be able to communicate through this social network). I met her last summer (2009) when we were on project in Spain, serving at the Camino de Santiago. I talked then quite long with her and her friend and shared with them about God and the Bible. I was able to share the gospel with them and pray with them before they left the next day. Now she was trying to make contact again with me because she found my name on Facebook. A few weeks later she asked if I could tell her more about Agapè because she was interested in being involved with the ministry. After mailing around with some of our colleagues in Hungary I found somebody who was willing to meet and talk with her. Next time she came 'online' I chatted with her and gave her all the info I had gathered. She was delighted because it turned out that the contact person was actually working on the same university that she was going to! God is great! Pray for her that she will be able to really grow in her relationship with God. I am still trying to also get I touch with her friend, the other woman she travelled with on the Camino. I heard that she moved to Italy, but with Facebook the distance is not a problem ;-)



Personal updates

Our kids are all well and busy with many things but they do come 'home' most weekends because of friends and church activities. We are thankful for their involvement in spiritual things both in the church and in student organizations as IFES.

Joel finished his master degree this winter and will get his diploma this May 25. Pray for him as he is looking for a job now. Anna decided to work for a year before beginning on a master degree this coming September.

Mayen is working hard because she expects to get her bachelor in International Media and Communication next month. Josef our youngest (but also the tallest in the family) is in his 4th year of high school (a six year variety). He has no idea yet what he wants to do afterwards. Anyway, there is a good system set up in his school to help him find out what he likes and what he is good in.



Mama (Jing her mother) lives now already more than half a year in a different apartment (since the flood last year October). Of course she is thankful for being alive and together with Jing's younger (handicapped) brother, but it stays difficult to adjust to so many new things at her age. She just turned 80 this spring. Also her health has gone down this past half year. She has diabetes and cannot walk good any more. At the time of this writing she is in the hospital because of some allergic reactions to medicines that could not be controlled while living at home. Her resistance and immune system is very low at the moment. Please, pray with us that she will gain strength soon.



Talking about health problems

Some of you may have heard it already through our weblog (<http://freddv.wordpress.com/>) that these past months have not been without problems for ourselves either. Jing discovered just before Easter a cyst in her groin that turned out not to be dangerous, but it still had to be removed. She was operated on that on April 9. At the same time she also suddenly discovered that she could no longer see sharp with her one eye. A checkup revealed that she only had 30% vision left. That turned out to be due to a hole in the macula (the middle of the retina in the back of her eye). After a number of quick appointments and check-ups she was operated on that eye on April 26. The first week after that was very hard on her as she had to keep her face down for three times 2 hours every day and was not allowed to sleep on her back (which is her normal sleeping position).

Anyway, we survived that and during the last checkup the surgeon was very pleased with the improvement. For the rest it's a matter of waiting....

As for me... Ever since we returned from the Philippines I have had problems with skin infections. Now, half a year and five antibiotic treatments later the specialist has finally declared me free of the resistant bacteria that caused the infections.

We are grateful for the Lords faithfulness and goodness through these past months. We thank Him for the many friends around us who stood by us in these not so good times.

Of course we also want to thank you for being our partner in prayer and/or financial support and your continued involvement with us and our ministry.

Fred and Jing + kids

F.H. de Vries, Dommel 61, 3961 HS , Wijk bij Duurstede. Tel. 0343-577223
(E-mail fdevries@agape.nl of jingdevries@agape.nl). Weblog <http://freddv.wordpress.com/>

Donations can be given through the ABN/AMRO bank acct.no. 48.36.38.846 of Agapè in Doorn in the Netherlands, mentioning it is for Fred and Jing de Vries.

We also have staff accounts in the Philippine and US offices of Campus Crusade for Christ.

US staff account # 2740939 Fred and Jing de Vries; Or go to:

<https://give.ccci.org/give?Action=ViewDetail&Desig=2740939&pp=Search+Results&Desig=2740939>

PCCC staff account: Rosario (Jing) de Vries