

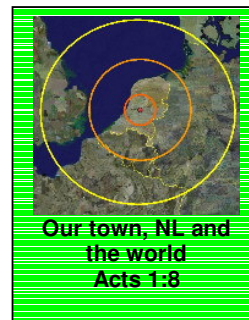
June 2008

Dear family and friends...

*"Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit; and you will find rest."* Matt. 11:28

A fitting text just before the summer vacations start here in Holland? One of our colleagues reminded us recently of the fact that the rest of Jesus does not mean doing nothing..., but coming to Him and learning from Him. It means exchanging the human stress inducing yoke for His own under which we may rest in His leadership. We can be gentle and humble, knowing that He is in control – the same way He was trusting in His fathers control. An excellent lesson for both those who are really going to rest and for those – like ourselves - who are going to go on summer campaigns before taking a break. He also suggested we remind ourselves to take holidays (holy days with time for the Lord) in stead of vacation (vacant = empty, without meaning)...

*In this letter we want to bring you up to date on what has been happening the last half year or so.*



### Ministry stories

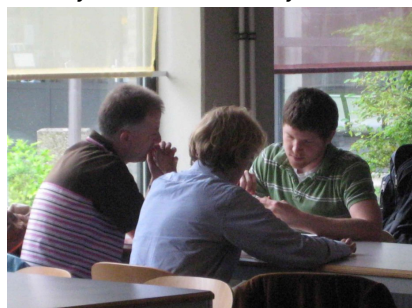
Our normal 'everyday' ministries continue as before. Fred is updating regularly the present website of Agapè (CCC) Netherlands while at the same time working 'behind the screens' on a new design for it. During the evenings he spends time studying and writing articles and other things for Agapè and our church. Jing is busy as always in the prayer ministry at both places. But its the side-jobs that give a lot of variety and pleasure.

Jing is helping the human resources director in the development of a training for the team leaders. In relation to this she just spend a weekend at a conference in the UK. The two of us are enjoying being part of the team of trainers that is developing the revised new staff training for Holland.

Last month we conducted for the first time the last part of this 5-stage basic training. The main topics that we covered this time were 'building spiritual movements of multiplying disciples' and the 'person and work of the Holy Spirit'. Two key topics in the arsenal of CCC International that we covered in depth during this midweek. We discussed at length the ins and outs of the different views on the ministry of the Holy Spirit that we encounter in Holland. And the 'official teaching' of CCC that so many times has proven to be acceptable to all sides in our country.



A third major issue – evangelism – was not just talked about but also practiced by joining the nearby student ministry-team. Jing was directly involved in this outreach that was held in two universities in Rotterdam. Our staff were joined by members of the Navigators student organization. After a short time of instruction and prayer the participants split up and went to the canteens to talk with the students there, using the simple method of spiritual surveys to get in contact. During the evaluation afterwards it became soon clear that many students were interested in talking about spirituality and faith – a big change from a decade ago...



We experienced another example of that change recently during a national staff meeting in a town right at the coast where outreach was part of the day-program. There were different options to choose from: beach-volleyball (a great way of drawing young people and get into a conversation), a prayer-station (offering prayer to people on the street) and good old fashioned street evangelism



(with surveys and/or a sketch board). All methods

worked well and some serious conversations about faith and Christianity were reported. That was probably also due to the fourth group that spend the whole time in prayer...

But, all these conversations did show the serious lack of knowledge the Dutch people have nowadays about God and the Gospel. *We're in the middle of a mission field...!*



### Family update

Our kids are flying out of the nest... Two of them – Joël (22), and Mayen (20) were already living in the nearby city where they are studying... Anna (21) and Josef (14) are the only ones living at home. This year Joël will finish his masters in Public Administration and Organization at the university and hopefully discover Gods direction for the next phase of his life. Anna is going to Germany and Latvia this summer to get hands-on experience with **GAIN**, the relief agency of Campus Crusade for Christ. After that she will go to the UK for studies the first half of the next school year (Sept. – Jan.). Mayen will be going there (UK) for the second half of the same year (Jan. – June) for an internship that is part of her international Communications and Media course. So only Josef will be with us the whole year.

This summer he (Josef) will join an international group of staff kids and others for a trip to Spain where they will walk together the last 100 km. of the **Camino de Santiago** – a famous pilgrims route... They hope to grow in their relationship with God and make contact with other fellow pilgrims.

### European staff training

Speaking of the Camino. This July, Jing and I will be helping in the European New Staff Training again – just like last summer. And just like then it will take place at the Auberge of the Spanish national ministry that is situated in Ligonde, a small town along those last 100 km. of the Camino. The idea is that together with the other leaders involved, we create an environment for the new staff – coming from all over Europe – that challenges them to grow spiritually and learn to minister to others, both spiritually and



otherwise. We won't see Josef passing by though because he'll be passing by there around 14 days after we leave. Please pray that we will be a blessing to the 20-plus new staff and to some of the 600 pilgrims who walk or bike past every day...

To get a feel of what it is like, look at the following clip: Ligonde NST which you can find at:

<http://nl.youtube.com/watch?v=1GIIdnurACPw>

### Support raising update

As we mentioned in our previous letter, we are working on finding new supporters / partners to join with us in this ministry by giving financially. The cost of living keeps going up but the incoming finances have been lagging behind. As we worked on this the past months we have seen Gods blessing as several people have agreed to join 'our team'... At the moment we are about halfway our goal of finding an additional € 1000,- monthly support and € 5000,- one-time. Please keep praying with us for new contacts to challenge to consider being part of our prayer and financial support team.

We feel very blessed to serve the Lord together with all of you.

Fred and Jing de Vries

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**Giften** kunnen worden overgemaakt op giro 1021474 of ABN/AMRO bank rek.no. 48.36.38.846  
t.n.v. Agapè te Doorn onder vermelding van Freek en 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 goto:**

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

**PCCC staff account: Rosario (Jing) de Vries**