

NEWS

MART-JAN &
TALITHA
JOY, MICHA
AND AMY



Our help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.
Psalm 121

Almost 1 year one Cambodia...

We can still remember clearly how we departed from Holland, started our trip to Cambodia and arrived here with the 5 of us. Finally we were in the country where we had been 'traveling' to for so long...

So much has happened in the time that lies in between. We are here for 10 months now and the time has passed by very fast! But how do you summarise such a huge process in just a couple of sentences..?

During these months we, little by little, build up relations with the people around us and have tried to show them, just in everyday life, something about God who loves people so dearly. We did make our house a home and we've learned how and where to get the things that we need. We also learned some basic things about how things are done here, some of the 'do's' and 'don'ts'.

Yes, we are still very much in that process!

Soon after we arrived we have started learning the Khmer language. We then realised how much a language tells about a country! We did start with the help of a private tutor. She helped us with the first words and sentences and we are very thankful for that.

Because of that we were able to get around a bit and understand a bit. After that we started studying language and culture at [G2K](#). It is an encouraging thing to notice the progress. This is especially true when we have guests and when they feedback us about the 'abracadabra' that we are talking;-) Fun!

During the last months we were happy to receive guests. A special time for us and the children, but also for the visitors themselves. It surely is an experience that they all will take home with them.

Content News:

Reflections | Partnership with GOWW | Move | Language studies | The climate | Family matters | Prayer- & Thanks

We have told you about Sak, who is helping us with all kind of things in our house, and who is helping the kids with their Khmer language. We love her, and she loves us. During the mornings when we go studying at G2K she takes care of the kids and that works very well.

We did also face some very difficult things last month's and in this letter we do update you about these issues.

Why summarising all of this? Because it helps to see the Lord at work: He helps, He leads, He cares, He comforts, He is with us. Isn't His name Immanuel?

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This News is sent out about 4 times a year in order to inform you well about the things that are happening in our lives and enables you to pray with us. Feel free to forward this letter to others.

You can subscribe or unsubscribe via our website www.2followus.wordpress.com. On our website you will also find more information and a BLOG. If you have any questions please ask us!

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PARTNERSHIP GOWW

Some of you have read it already in our prayer letter: last January GOWW did choose to no longer work together with us. For us this was a total surprise and as a family we (did) have a hard time handling that. We are glad for the good help that we found to go through this all, and we feel more comforted now. Every week more rest and peace are coming in this situation. We are very thankful for that!

Alongside our last prayer-letter we have sent a specific letter about the whole situation. In case you do not have this letter but would like to read it, simply sent us an e-mail and we will sent it to you. Of course our HFT (Home Front Team) is available for questions as well.

Because of all that has happened we would like to say (again) that we do not doubt our calling to Cambodia. Of course some plans changed and we are very open to see what the Lord has in mind for us. We have questions like: "Where may we serve? What may we

do? Who may we serve specifically?" All sorts of questions that we daily bring into prayer. Please join us in prayer for this quest for our future.

WE HAVE MOVED

Last February we have moved to a more quiet part of Phnom Penh. What a blessing it is! We do enjoy this new place every day and it feels like a safe base to work from. During the move we did receive a lot of help from our friends and so we even managed to do it all in one day! Our 'tuk-tuk'-man did also offer his help to us together with his friends... His 'official' location is not here but we do have good contact, he is still available for us and he regularly takes us to where we want to go. Please pray for this contact.

We do live in a nice house, on the very top of a 'phteah I-veng', a typical Cambodian flat and we do feel at home here. This place helps us all. From the balcony of our house we do have a view over a part of the city. During the evenings we enjoy a 'cool' breeze that cools down the place a bit (to about 32 degrees celsius for example..).

We still live among the Khmer people, we do have contact with them every day, but it is much more quiet and the kids do have a place to run and play and there are other local kids to play with! We can enjoy a bit of football or badminton. They enjoy it!

This house truly is a prayer-item that is granted. We also have good contact with the house owner and are getting to know more and more people in the block. Please pray for them.

If you would fancy a virtual cup of fairtrade, delicious coffee we are very happy to have you over for a short visit. Please click the link [here](#). You can also have a look at our house.

LANGUAGE STUDIES

We both did stop language study for one module. We needed time to process all the sudden happenings and sort out a lot of the consequences. Right now Talitha has continued her studies and Mart-Jan will (D.V.) start again by the end of May.

Talitha does enjoy her studies and is making good progress. Mart-Jan is also looking forward to study again. We will be in the same class and that does give that extra bit of

Practical information

Our postadress in **Holland**:

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Financial support:

We're grateful for those who want to support us financially. Please use the bank account as stated below:

Foundation: Nehemia (ANBI)

Please note: Gift Mart-Jan & Talitha

IBAN: **NL66 SNSB 0931 7011 39**

BIC: **SNSBNL2A**

competition that could be nice..;-)

THE CLIMATE - THE HOT SEASON

Cambodia is a hot country, we knew that before we came here. When we arrived the hottest time has just passed and we entered the wet, raining season.

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We were excited to find out how we would cope with the hot season. How would it be and feel?

Normally April is the hottest month and that's already done. The record so far is 41 celsius in the living room, but than everything does continue: homeschooling, language studies, house keeping and the attached choruses. The kids are coping well. We do have a little children's pool at the balcony and they do enjoy it to cool down a bit sometimes. Of course we join them in a water fight, nice and warm. Joy was asking if she could wear socks for her cold feet..?

FAMILY MATTERS

The last months did have a great impact on us as a family. It was a stressful time but we did grow more, and closer to each other and, more important, to the Lord. We have experienced that He does never let us go, never forsakes us and that He does use difficult things to teach us and shape us more into His image. He draws us closer to Himself: very, very precious. We do not understand some things but we want to fully trust Him. He is in control.

The children are doing well. Since the last newsletter Joy and Micha do have a lot of friends. We are amazed how the Lord did answer this prayer point as well. Needles to say that Joy and Micha are really enjoying their new friendships. The homeschooling is going well as well. We did discover a network of home-schoolers and do have a outing together once a month. The kids also enjoy their kids-club every week.

And Amy has turned one already! She did make her first steps on Cambodian grounds and is moving faster and faster. She develops as a happy little girl, and she knows what she wants. Lovely to see her grow. She is imitating a lot and talking her own mixed language. Will she speak Khmer first or will it be Dutch?

PLEASE GIVE THANKS FOR:

1. Gods faithfulness and care over us for every day.



2. That we are doing well. We have, despite of the heat, more energy and we are very happy with that.
3. That the homeschooling is going well. Joy and Micha enjoy it (and we do enjoy it as well). The contact with the 'Regenboogschool' in Holland is working out very well. We are making plans for the next year already.
4. That Joy and Micha have received friends to play with.
5. That we have received a wonderful house and that we enjoy it every day.
6. For good contacts with the local people here.
7. That language studies are going well.
8. That we could have a very good visit of Erik & Michelle and Kinza, and of Philip and Anneke.
9. That Eunice, Talitha's sister and HFT'er, is coming in June. She likes to help us and will homeschool the kids for some weeks. We are looking forward to her coming and the time together.
5. For the contacts with Sak, Heng and all the new neighbours that we have at our new house.
6. That we will get the new VISA by the mid of June. We will travel to Thailand to change the VISA from NGO to normal VISA. Please pray for a safe trip and smooth process of this all.

Thank you for all your help. We value your prayers and thanksgiving, gifts, encouragements and all other help in whatever way!

Warm greetings from all 5 of us.



KIDS 2 KIDS

On our website we have made a specific part **for kids!** We have placed some drawings and some video's there.

Joy also made a video of one of her favorite books! So if you want to practice your Dutch take a look at the website via [this link](#).
Enjoy!

PRAY FOR:

1. For our relation with the Lord and that it may deepen, grow, mature no matter the circumstances.
2. For strength, energy, health and a good nights rest. The high temperature does costs a lot of energy.
3. That we will see all things here in the right perspective and that we will hold on to the reason why we came here in the first place.
4. That we will gain insight in the plans that the Lord has prepared for us already.