

# NEWS

MART-JAN &  
TALITHA  
JOY, MICHA  
AND AMY



## Teamwork

Maybe you know the following phrase: *“when you want to go fast, go alone, when you want to go far, go together.”*

Together with Alongsiders we want to go far. We have a long term vision. In this, we need each other and teamwork is very important.

Already three weeks ago, we had a team day with Alongsiders, we rode horse, had lessons in archery and looked back on 2016 together. What had happened, which people joined the team?, whom did we say goodbye to? What did we accomplish? And what had no result? We reflected also on our functioning as a team. Are we all headed in the same direction towards 2017?

Sometimes it helps to look at what breaks a team. What divides? What destabilises? Which are the keys to work

together in a right way. With the Alongsiders team we watched a short [English spoken video](#) in which five basic problems among teams are discussed. Very interesting!

According to this video, those five basic problems are:

1. Lack of trust
2. Fear of conflict
3. Lack of commitment
4. Avoiding accountability
5. Lack of focus towards results

In this video there's a great emphasis on trust as a foundation to work together well. Together we looked at our experiences within the Alongsiders teams. What functions well? What can be improved? How can we work towards that? What about culture? Do we have our own team culture? How does that show?

One of the reasons for us to share this with you is that we are very grateful to

be part of this team. That there is space to have reflection, space to learn, space to improve. In the bible it says in proverbs 15:22 Plans go wrong for lack of advice; many counselors bring success

You can go fast for a while without consultation but in the long term it doesn't function. You need consultation and you need each other. Within the Alongsiders team we are challenged , encouraged, we learn new things and unlearn other things.

Another reason to share this is because we want to ask you to pray for our team. We differ in culture, age, background, gifts, talents, but we have the same goal, the same passion for the Cambodian. We work together on the same camp: Shalom Valley. We are the Shalom Valley-team: Dave & Dawn, Lakhina, Pon, Mart-Jan & Talitha.

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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.

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As a team we want to show something of the God we serve by the way we work together. Working, learning and sharing with respect, love and passion.

The Lord Jesus started His work on earth with the gathering of a team of people who would follow Him. He called them with the words "follow Me". Paul follows that example, and calls us to follow his example (1 Cor. 4:16 and 11:1). Of course this means that we follow Paul in the way he follows his Master (1 Thess. 1:6).

It is our desire to, in all humility, by trial and error, through our lives and teamwork, send a signal: "Go with us to follow the Lord Jesus". Isn't it special that we, by following Him can work together with Him? We are part of His 'team' (Math. 11:29). You, in the Netherlands or wherever, we in Cambodia. Everyone in his own place, everyone with his own special role. That's so cool! Together we follow Him.

Thank you for your involvement. Steadily, the development around Shalom Valley proceeds step by step. The plans and drawings will be finished. We talk with local building companies about prices, to build and we prepare the building legislation. We are allowed to build but need the permission for how and what exactly.

This is an uncertain factor. How long will this process take? What are the demands? When is the best time to move as a family to Kep. How does the building process go in Cambodia? What does a 'contract' mean in this country? How do we guard safety during the building process? The number of work accidents is high up here.

In the meantime the work on the land itself goes on. Two of the three water wells are drilled, and we are busy with the earth movement to prepare the ground for building. There are enough challenges but we are optimistic and look at the goal. How awesome will it be to keep the first Allongsider camp in this place!

### FAMILY UPDATE

We are doing well! We noticed we came 'home' again in Cambodia. This is so cool. It is not our own country, and yes there are still many things to learn, but it was not like starting all over again as we did in 2014

As we arrived at the airport in Phnom Penh we found our colleagues and friends waiting for us. Super joyful! It was also nice that we could keep our house during the furlough with friends staying in it for three months. It all helped to have that feeling of homecoming, returning to our own place.

It was also good and cool to meet neighbours, colleagues and friends after a long time and the people in the church. We had missed them for sure!

As in Cambodia as in the Netherlands we recognise what this saying means:

***"You will never be completely at home again. Because part of your heart will always be elsewhere. That is the price you pay for the richness of loving and knowing people in more than one place."***

Joy and Micha are fully into the rhythm of homeschooling again. They resumed and enjoy the extra things we can do. They participated in a play by the homeschool group and on Friday they have swimming lessons from Mart-Jan. Also the contacts with the schoolfellows and teachers in the Netherlands go pleasantly. Joy typed a whole lot off brightly coloured mails. At the start of the new year they all cooperate about Africa from the distance

Amy joins happily with everything. Her favourite part is to join with 'going to school' too. She enjoys reading books together, to cook, to fold laundry, being naughty, singing, colouring, constructing with LEGO with her brother and sister, or just the camaraderie of playing a game.

We are glad to know that we will be carried the coming time by your prayers & care.

Thank you for that!

### PRAYER- & PRAISE POINTS

#### GIVE THANKS FOR:

1. Having had a positive transition. We came back refreshed from the furlough.
2. A good recovery of Micha's arm, which he broke in the Netherlands during soccer. It doesn't bother him anymore.
3. For our health. Of course we pick up something sometimes. Amy had

chicken pox lately (luckily not during the hot season...!), but generally we feel healthy.

4. For working with joy at Alongsiders. There's a good spirit within the team.
5. For Shalom Valley, the beautiful compound and the way plans take shape more and more.
6. For Alongsiders, the way the organization grows and blesses, also in other countries.
7. For 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile, the community we visit, where we can also participate as a family.
8. We received new visa for a year!
9. For strength, energy, faithfulness, pleasure and health during the chores and relationships of every day (marriage, family, homeschooling, friendships, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile, Alongsiders).

#### PRAY FOR:

1. For the Shalom Valley team (Dave & Dawn, Pon, Lakhina, and ourselves).
  1. For a good cooperation
  2. For Pon, working at the moment as the only member of the team in Kep
  3. For Dave, Mart-Jan and Lakhina who travel frequently to and fro to Kep.
2. For us, as a family, as we make preparations to move towards the surroundings of Kep in the course of the coming year (possibly before the hot season starts at the end of march for us to be able to coach the developments according to the building of the camp well.
3. For the building permit.
4. For safety. We have to travel more frequent in chaotic traffic.
5. For wisdom. We are confronted by a lot of need. We need wisdom every time again to discern what is a task for us and what is something we must (may) leave.

Warm greetings,

Mart-Jan & Talitha,  
Joy, Micha and Amy



# Home Front Team



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### Financial support:

Alongsiders does not pay us a salary. We're very grateful for those who want to support us financially. If you want to do so, then please use the Dutch bank details as stated below:

Foundation: Nehemia (ANBI)  
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