

News Letter

MART-JAN &
TALITHA

JOY
MICHA
AMY



"Therefore I intend always to **remind** you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have." 2 Peter 1:12

Remember.

Recently, somebody wrote an email to us with a message about remembering. Thinking about something that has happened, to bring it into remembrance.

But also to re-internalize: making something part of yourself again.

Peter uses in the bible (2Pet. 1:12) also the word remember. He reminds us to, with all our effort, virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love, to add to our faith.

Why does Peter take this in remembrance to us? Clearly it is possible to lose our focus. Clearly we can be busy with all kind of (good)things, and lose the Lord Jesus out of our sight. That's when things go wrong. Our effort will be without fruit.

The fruit that shows when we learn to know the Lord Jesus more(and more).

Another thing which Peter brings into remembrance to us in his letter, is the eternal kingdom of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer(11). The place we are going to when we know the Lord Jesus. Peter encourages us, at the end of his life, to keep our focus on the Lord Jesus, to know Him and to keep our eyes towards heaven!

When was the last time that you took these things into remembrance? When was the last time that you let the Lord Jesus inside of you?, be part of you? Let's help each other to remember who the Lord Jesus is. The great things He did and does. Who He wants to be for us, also in the future. He is awesome!

Something what I recalled, was what someone said recently: Mission is overflow(it's a surplus, it flows over from something else). Mission is not at first

about the work that can be done, but about the Mission giver: God Himself.

Do we show the people around us how good we are doing our (mission)work?. Or do we show through our work something of the Mission giver Himself?

Wherever we work, and how it may look, this is something that we can help each other with to remember every time

In this newsletter we will tell about how we are doing, what we are able to do up here, the things we experience as nasty and those that we enjoy. We also ask for your prayer.

We are grateful that you remember us too and think of us. Each sign of that feels good to us, we thank the Lord and you for that.

Enjoy the reading

Continue on page 2 >>>

News | June 2017

22



'17-2

This News is sent out about 4-6 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.com On our website you will also find more information and our BLOG. If you have any questions please ask us!

We notice that we are settling in Kep. The normal things as “where can I buy my toothpaste?” Become more common. At first our work in Phnom Penn was focused mostly on the language and culture study, but now we can bring many of those language and culture lessons into practice and increase in learning to use them.

FOCUS-POINTS

When it became clear that we would move to Kep, Talitha and I thought together about what our focus would be on. For certain we work together with Alongsiders to form Shalom Valley, but besides that we added some focus points together. Things we want to work for consciously, with and next to our family.

The first one is the local church. We want to cooperate with it in a way that the local believers are build, with us at the sideline being able to encourage them.

The second one is discipleship. With this we think of course about the work we do with Alongsiders, but also about normal contacts and friendships that develop at the place we live.

The third is business as mission(BAM), this means shortly said: doing business according to Gods standards and rules. This creates a place in the community which is a blessing for the employees, the customers, but most important, to the honor of God. An example to others, a road sign to the Lord Jesus. G2K(Gateway to Khmer), the language school where we studied together is such a “BAM”. Mart-Jan cooperates in the management of this school.

We also facilitate here in Kep, four times a year, a day in which Missionary workers from Kep can meet with each other, get energised, share visions, count blessings, eat together, do fun things and pray with each other. The first day in April was groovy and we hear back that it meets a need.

Around us we see a lot of need. That’s why we are grateful for these focus points that we shaped through praying together, which helps us to guard our boundaries.

GUITAR LESSONS

Since a few weeks I have, Mart-Jan, started to give guitar lessons. I have a group of about 8 boys and girls who come every week. We have fun together, they learn to play the guitar



and I learn more Khmer. I enjoy it and when I look at my “students” they are also enjoying themselves. The group exists of 4 Christians and 4 non-Christians.

Every lesson we pray and thank together. My prayer is that in the future time starting-points will come to be able to share the gospel.

‘ROOTS’

In our previous newsletter we wrote to you about Roots, a project close to our home where we visit the church service on Sundays.

The past week we got more involved with the church and the couple that started this work(Steven and Mandi),

asked us to support the church. Together we talked about the vision and activities that they started, the needs there are and how we can reach the people there where they are.

It was really cool to bring some direction together, pray together and dare to look critically at what we do.

In the next time we will head at supporting the little team that does the children’s work and on discipleship. Steven and Mandi will focus more on (English and Khmer) language education that is given at Roots, and on a project that is focused on giving accommodation to the poorest up here.

Continue on page 3 >>>





Roots offers people to help them to get a good housing. These people are the ones that have no home or those that literally live in a corrugated iron cabin. For people with a year income between 1000 and 1500 dollar is owning a house far out of their reach.

Roots helps by offering mud houses as domestication. It sounds more odd as it is, because a house made of earth is pleasantly cool, sustains long and is cheap. Yet the building takes a lot of effort.

A family that wants such a house has to lay the foundation themselves first and make the stones. After this Roots helps them by bringing in teams (mainly from abroad) who help them to build. This brings a good house within reach of people who want to invest their time.

Last week we helped for a day. Fun to do and it was nice to put your thoughts on something else for a change. And in matters of home-schooling this is called of course a "building-project".

SHALOM VALLEY UPDATE

Shalom Valley has suffered a delay of four months since the previous newsletter. The main reason for this is that the building permit takes longer as expected. Because of this we cannot start with building the first "big" building.

That is a pity as we are really ready for it. All the drawings are there, we have a contractor who will build it for us, the planning etc. The whole process around such a permit in this country is not that clear, and it can change by the day as it seems.

To be honest, we were not happy at all about this at first. We are in Kep, said goodbye to our friends in Phnom Penh and now we have to wait four months just like that.

On the other side we became grateful. Grateful that we had added other focus points from the start. Grateful that we, because of this, got more time to learn to know the church better and that we got time to help thinking about how to shape things together in this place. So, after all, it is to us as a family a blessing too.

This doesn't mean, by the way, that the developments around Shalom Valley have come to a full stop. Within about a week we will start with a drainage system and we can place all kinds of sport and game places without a permit. There's enough we can do!

Continue on page 4 >>>





FAMILY UPDATE

With us, as a family, it goes well. We are glad to be able to write that to you. Now we live here a couple of months we notice that this place suits us more as the big city. The children cycle around and have more space to play and more contacts with children from the neighbourhood. Fresh air, no traffic jams, and green surroundings. We enjoy that enormously.

Also our house has become more a home by now. Things have their place (including the mice), and even in the dark we can find the light buttons. Micha's fort in the garden is ready and Joy has her favourite spots to enjoy reading. And Amy, she moves between everything and participates with it all. Wonderful!

SCHOLING

Joy and Micha did, despite all the changes, their utmost best at school. The next weeks we hope to finish this school year with cito-tests, the last courses and it will be done.

With the furlough and moving it was a busy, but good school year. Also the first weeks of the school year, when Joy and Micha participated in their own classes in NL add to good and fun memories.

During the next months we hope to receive a reasonable amount of visitors. Something we really look forward to. As, because we live

between people here, it is sometimes a bit "lonely".

GIVE THANK WITH US:

1. For (most times) a good health!
2. For pleasure in working with Alongsiders and at Shalom Valley
3. For growing relationships with local people and possibilities to share with them about the Lord

PRAY WITH US:

1. For the young local church that we visit and our tasks there in supporting the kids club and forming discipleship
2. For health and protection. There's a nasty, contagious skin disease going round in the community, we

notice that, now we have more contacts we also are sick more often.

3. For the second meeting day for workers from Kep on 3 July`

Until next time!

Warm greetings from all five of us.

Practical information

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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)

Please note: Project church-work
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On www.2followus.com you can find more information about our Homefront Team and other people who are helping them so that you can stay connected to the work in Cambodia!

