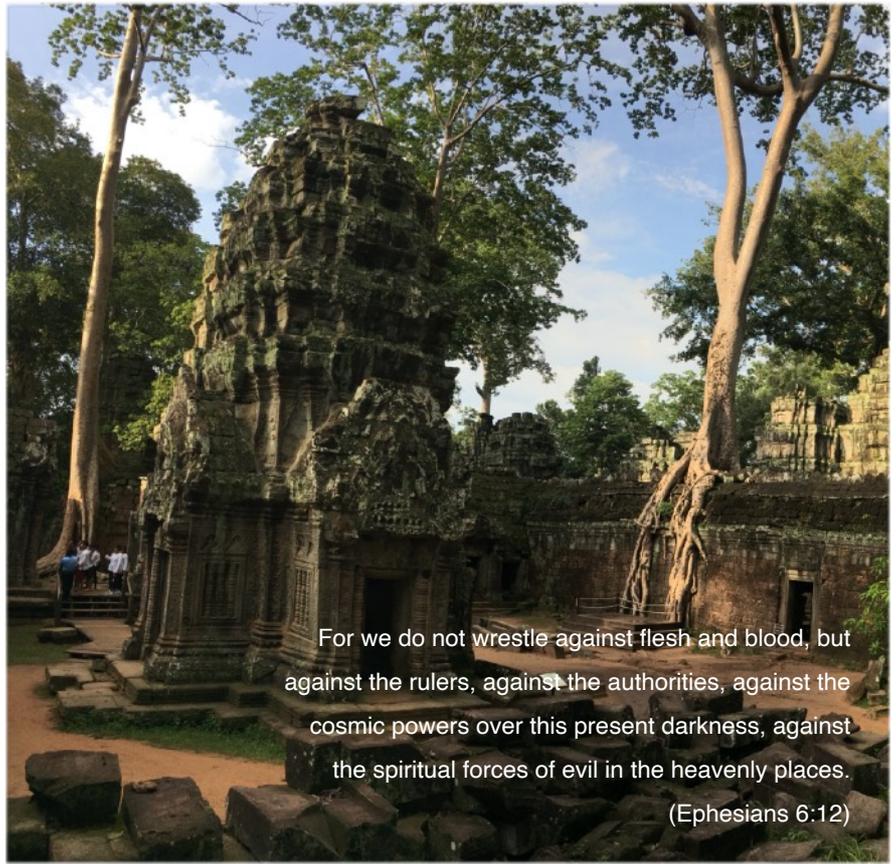


NEWS Letter

MART-JAN &
TALITHA

JOY
MICHA
AMY



For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

(Ephesians 6:12)

“Why did they hate Jesus? I don't understand...”

A little bit amazed our house helper looked at us. We have been reading about Jesus' life for some weeks now. As we read the part about Jesus' death, how people treated Him, she asked us “Why did the leaders hate Jesus? I don't understand ...”

During the bible study on Tuesday evening we read the book of Genesis. Together we aim to take a look at the main themes throughout the Bible. And there as well we receive a lot of ‘why’ questions: “Why did man not listen to God's command?”, and “Why did God not kill mankind at once since they did not listen?” These questions are great since they create an opportunity to share and point towards the Lord Jesus. We pray that, when we talk with people about their questions, God's word will speak into their lives in a powerful way. We again realise how deep the

buddhism roots have gone into people's lives. It really touches us that a poor lady, 46 years old, comes to the Bible study one evening but loans (a lot of) money to offer to the ancestors the next day when she visits the local temple. We pray that they will discover that there is only one way to God: Jesus Christ.

The religious leaders hated Jesus because He confronted them with themselves and their religious system. He confronted them with the double lives they lived and their sinful hearts. Their hatred was so strong that they went on to kill Jesus. As for us, we don't want to bring another ‘religion’. We would like to tell people about a living God who made them and loves them. Not the God of the ‘borothee’ (which means foreigner), as the people often say here, but a God, a Person, who really loves them: personal and close. A God who gave His son to live and to die on this earth. Because of His love for the lost. Last week, during a big Buddhist feast,

we talked with the kids about a religious leader: Nicodemus and how the Lord Jesus tells him about gaining new life. We asked the kids what ‘god’s’ they knew of. They were able to name many. Then we asked whether these god's loved them? Soon the answer came: “no”. At the end they all said that it was only Jesus who loved them. These moments are so precious to us. We often feel weak, but we remember ourselves in these moments that the battle is not against flesh and blood (Ephesians 6:12). It is a spiritual battle. And we remember that He who is more, much more, than he who is in the world.

We pray that people will keep on asking these questions, and that they will meet the Lord Himself. Maybe at the kids-club, maybe at the bible-study, maybe elsewhere.

Would you join us in prayer?

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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.com. On our website you will also find more information and our BLOG. If you have any questions please ask us!

SHALOM VALLEY UPDATE

We have permission to start building on Shalom Valley! That means, verbal permission. That is a normal practice for Cambodia we've been told. That the papers will come later is for us something we still need to get used to. We're still Dutch you see;-) But, nevertheless, it is a true blessing that we can start building, we're ready for it! The drains are mostly done now and we will be starting the first bigger building this coming Monday. We are truly looking forward to some more activities on the Shalom Valley land.

Recently Dave Greenfield, the project manager, turned 70. He is still very active but the time has come for him, and his wife, to return to New Zealand where they come from.

Alongsiders asked Mart-Jan to take over Dave's role. We, together, think this is a good thing and are positive about it and are looking forward to what this change will bring. Would you pray with us for a good transition, for Dave to finish well and for Mart-Jan to take over well.

FAMILY UPDATE

This is a special week for us as we have a wedding anniversary. 10 years together! We have been thinking what

to do for this special time and we have decided to make a trip, as a family, to the North of Cambodia. The last couple of years have been marked by transition. We have moved 6 times in a relatively short time, have learned a new language a culture. Because of that we did not see a lot of Cambodia yet, and we thought this is a good moment to change that. We hope to enjoy the beauty of this country, some nice places and people and some rest. We hope that this will be a great memory for all of us.

Looking back on these 10 years we are filled with thankfulness. We count our blessings.

We didn't have any idea how our text at our wedding day would take shape during our marriage: *"that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days."* And a bit later on: *"to guide our feet into the way of peace."*

We never thought that that would look like our life as it is today. We pray that, with its up's and down's, this text will be and come true in our lives, all for the glory of His name. That wherever we might come His peace will also be there. He will be the same now and forever, He will lead us, and He will provide in everything that we need.

Our times are in His hand. This makes that we look forward with confidence to whatever might come. Who knows how much more time we still have? Who knows how much longer we can share about His love and study the word together with others and live for Him..

These last months have been filled with some visits as well. Friends have been here for a long weekend, a family from Eindhoven and grand-ma and grand-dad have been here for a bit longer. It has been great! We have enjoyed it. It is so precious to have people over and to have them 'feel', 'see', and 'taste' some of our life here. Simple as it is with the good and the bad. It has been a blessing to invest in those friendships in such a way.

After such a period we are ready for some more rest and stability. Life goes on: Shalom Valley, helping the kids-club 'Salt', the bible study, G2K, family life.

We both feel special moments of joy when we look at the eyes of the children when they 'get-it', or when we see the locals taking initiative during the kids-club. Or that we do a bible study together and they come with items for thanksgiving: "If God created everything so beautifully, than I should thank Him more often."

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HOMESCHOOLING

We all are in the rhythm of home schooling again. It has been a good start with lot's of new's. Amy also decided to join the 'school';-)

Besides the normal subjects Joy also studies the violin for about 5 months. A huge blessing. Joy had asked for it before but we never had the opportunity for it. And to be honest we thought that living in Kep would not give us that opportunity as well. But, some months ago a volunteer from Korea came to Roots and teach music. She invited Joy to join the lessons, a great opportunity. The house is now filled with violin, recorder, cahon, guitar, flute and lots of singing. We love it!

It's all with falling and getting up on our feet again, but we are thankful for living here, working here. Thank you all for your prayers, support, and interest. We're on this mission together.

THANK WITH US:

1. For good health.
2. For our 10 year anniversary, we are super thankful with and for each other.
3. For a good start with the home schooling. The kids enjoy the new subjects.
4. For joy in the work for Shalom Valley and for the permission to start building.
5. For growing relations with local people and for opportunities to share the Gospel with them.
6. For a good pastor's conference in Kampot, a little town close by. The main idea was to encourage local believers to go out: to disciple.

PRAY WITH US:

1. For the young church in our community. Pray that the few local believers will reach out with the Gospel to their neighbours and others around them.



5. For our friend Gerub. She is a firm believer and reads the bible every week with Talitha. On the 9th of October she moves to Kampong Cham, a place far from here. We will miss here. Pray that she, and her 3 children will connect to a local church there well.
6. For safety and health. Also during the trip that we plan to make.
7. For moments when we feel lonely.
8. For the transition to Mart-Jan's new role at Shalom Valley.
9. For setting right priorities every day.
10. For the third missionary day on the 16th of October. The theme for that day is: encouragement.

Until next time!

Many greetings from all of us!

2. For 'Salt'. Pray specific that new local believers with a heart for children will join the team.
3. For training and support for the team of 'Salt' workers.
4. For the Bible study on Tuesday evening. Pray that we all will hear the Lord's voice during our preparations. Making real application for our daily life is a difficulty for the believers.

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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!



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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:

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