

# NEWS Letter

MART-JAN &  
TALITHA

JOY  
MICHA  
AMY

Jesus.. "came that they may have life and have it abundantly".

(John 10:10)



## Peace be to you!

Just a couple of weeks and Christmas has arrived. Many people remember the coming of Jesus, God's Son, to this earth. Angels brought the glad tidings of peace. We also can be messengers of glad tidings, and share His peace with people around us. Everyone in his own way and own place.

Maybe peace is not easily found. I do not get very happy when I look at the news every now and then. Most of the time the news is not really 'peaceful'. But maybe one of the most important aspects of peace is the peace one can have inside. Peace in your heart. During the time of Jesus' birth peace was not found as well and the Romans ruled the Jewish people. However, Jesus' coming did mean peace. For some shepherds, for a group of wise man, for people who could see the King of kings in this lowly

born child. This Child Who would bring everlasting peace.

Shalom - the word for peace in Hebrew - is also found in the name for the camp that we are building: 'Shalom Valley'. Our wish and desire is that this place will be a place of peace. A place where people will find rest, where they can enjoy, where they can meet God. When that would result in real peace Shalom Valley has met it's purpose.

### SHALOM VALLEY UPDATE

The work at Shalom Valley is making good progress. We are working above ground level and it is a neat thing to see the building take shape. Stone after stone, slowly but steadily. Every day we have about 30-40 workers on the land. As a team that means that we have more than enough to keep us busy.

Besides the first building that will house about 120 people for sleeping we're

also working on finalising the design for a second building. This building will be a meeting place, an auditorium, a restaurant, kitchen and offices. Multifunctional. We hope to start the building of this building soon.

Last couple of weeks we have had a New-Zeeland couple here who helped to sort out a lot of activities that we could do at the land. We are thankful that they offered their experience. This month we will also say goodbye to Dave and his wife Dawn who will transition back to New-Zeeland. Mart-Jan will take on Dave's role in a different form.

Back to the Jewish people and another good Jewish doing. When the people would meet each other they would greet each other with the word 'Shalom'. Peace. That is what we would like to wish you as well. Peace in your life and heart. Peace with God and man. Shalom!

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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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## FAMILY-UPDATE

We enjoyed travelling in Cambodia during two weeks in October. It was our way to celebrate our 10th wedding anniversary. It feels like a long time ago already. We enjoyed and saw a lot of this beautiful country. We met new people and enjoyed to be together as a family. Lot's of photos and memories.

We also enjoy to have another member of the family! 4 instead of 3! A little present that turned the whole place up-side-down. A young dog. His name: Rakker (try to say that English speakers;-)) We assume it is a quiet (quiet.?) thank you for the time and help we gave to some friends of Joy and Micha who had a motoraccident some time ago.

We thank God these boys are doing well. In that same week there were a number of similar accidents that ended with a tragedy. But these boys are still here with a reason! These kinds of situations do help to have meaningful conversations.

## HOME-SCHOOLING

This month we do a little less home-schooling. Joy and Micha help with a Christmas musical. Together with the neighbourhood kids they work very hard to make it happen. Every day, outside of their school-hours, groups of kids come to practice their roles, music and more for the musical.

On Monday morning the 25th of December the kids will perform in the local school here. It is a joy to see their enthusiastic faces and to get to know them a little bit better through all the hours that we spent together now.

They help think about the best ideas to put the Christmas story in a Khmer context. Do we act out the sheep ourselves, or do we use the cows from Diwiet? Many people have cows here. Can Joseph and Mary travel by cow since we have no donkey? Or should we use a bike? And the wise man, do they travel by "tuk-tuk"? We don't have camels here as well. As you see, hard-

work, fun and sharing the gospel go together sometimes.

## GIVE THANKS WITH US:

1. for good health.
2. for energy and joy for the work at Shalom Valley.
3. for relations with the local people and that the existing relations may grow well. Pray especially for more opportunities to share the gospel with them.
4. for a 10th anniversary honey-moon that was really good for all of us.
5. for the safety of our 3 friends during the motor accident.

## PRAY WITH US:

6. for the young Christians in our community when we study the Bible together.
7. for the children work in our community.
8. for protection, especially for the young believers. God is at work but there is a spiritual battle as well.
9. for our friend Gèrup. She lives with her 3 kids in Kampong Cham now. She is 'okay', but life is not easy. We miss her as well.
10. for the musical on the 25th of December.

11. for Deborah, a young woman from Korea, who has been here for 6 months to teach the local kids music. In about two weeks she will leave for Korea to finish her studies.
12. for the transition to Mart-Jan's new role at Shalom Valley.
13. for Dave and Dawn and the transition they will make back to New Zealand.
14. for making good decisions and having the right priorities every day.

Thank you again for all your help, support, encouragement in many different ways. We appreciate your care for us! Many blessings and greetings from Cambodia,

Mart-Jan & Talitha,  
Joy, Micha and Amy

## 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](http://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!

