



## Summer greetings ☀️

The heat plan is in effect today here in Holland and I am sitting in the garden writing this newsletter. Pfoe, Cambodian temperatures. We are working towards the summer break. We need it.

A lot has happened. Many beautiful things. We are grateful and happy to take you with us.

Alongsiders is about walking together. Being each other's 'Alongsider' - in Jesus' name, because we want to show Him to the people around us. We ourselves also have a number of Alongsiders, people who walk with us. On a personal level, but also for Alongsiders as a movement. People with experience, people who have gone before us.

About three months ago, I was sitting on a terrace in Utrecht talking to someone like that and sharing, but the undertone

was also a request for advice. We want to *learn*. As I took a small sip of coffee, I heard him say: "You know Mart-Jan, you have a great tool, but how do people find you? How do you pay attention to that?"

I knew he had a point. He continued, "Try to create pathways, where people can 'see' you, then get to 'know' you better, and then can get in and 'do' it. Those will be the people who 'care' for Alongsiders, and help build the movement." That day I went back home with two super valuable points of interest (and action).

And we went to work on them. As a team, we looked at the people we know where Alongsiders can be a blessing, off-line, but also online. For example, do you already follow Alongsiders on [Insta](#)? We know that many of the young people we want to reach are on there. That is why we have created a lot of inspiring content for them recently. Testimonials, stories. It's great to suddenly come into contact with people we didn't know at all and

share about Alongsiders with them. It works!

You may also have seen another example. We have made beautiful reading plans for YouVersion. Some time ago, we came into contact with the team behind this app because there are very few plans in Dutch around the theme of discipleship. Whether we could do something about that.

At first, we couldn't because we were too busy with setting things up for Alongsiders Europe - but now the first plans is ready, and more is on the way. Take a look at them [here](#), and will you let us know what you think? More plans in English will follow soon!

Besides all the online stuff, there are also some great offline events coming up. In Groningen, in Almere, and who knows where else...

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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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## ALONGSIDERS IN ALBANIA

In June, I was in Albania. It was precious to meet the team there live and look back on all the preparations to launch Alongsiders, and to look ahead together: what still needs to be done, where can we start training, which contacts can we follow up? The days were filled with investing in this beautiful team and travelling to different places to meet groups of young people. It was a privilege to work together. I remember the day we were in Lushnjë. After a warm journey we arrived and talked with some pastors and young people about

discipleship. After a while, one of the pastors took the floor.

"Albania is the torch of Europe" says an Albanian proverb. And this very



region of Albania (Macadonia) is where the gospel first entered Europe. The pastor passionately encouraged the young people to make disciples as Paul did, and as this pastor, and others with him, did in the period when Albania knew much persecution. I saw and felt his enthusiasm and passion as he spoke and encouraged the young people, motivating them to be and make disciples themselves. I attach a picture of this group. Will you pray with me for these young people?

The Lord has given an open door in Albania, and now we want to move forward with Him and see how Alongsiders may be a blessing there. Two concrete prayer points: 1) pray for Flori, the videographer. He and his

wife just had a baby and there are several complications with the baby. 2) Serbiana, our coordinator, will soon continue her studies in law. She will move to France. A great loss for the team and we pray for someone who can take her place and support Sylvain & Ruth, both within Alongsiders and in the other places where she serves the church.

## OUR FAMILY

We are doing well as a family, but we have also noticed that we have been going through an intensive period and are ready for a holiday!

Joy and Amy have finished their school year well and will start after the summer holidays in 3rd and 6th grade. For Micha it is still a matter of waiting to see exactly where he will be next school year, and when that will be. We

## Practical information

### Our address in **Holland**:

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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, please use the Dutch bank details as stated below:

Foundation: Nehemia (ANBI)  
Please note: Project church-work  
Cambodia

IBAN: NL66 SNSB 0931 7011 39  
BIC: SNSBNL2A

notice how dependent you are on all kinds of 'systems' in such a process. Sometimes it is difficult, but we trust that this period of waiting teaches us something as a family and will make us stronger. The Lord is faithful! Always will be.

Talking about our holiday, next week we are going to relax for a while. We will stay in the Netherlands and hope to discover some more places together with the kids. We'll be out on the water, enjoying the museum card, visiting family, reading a good book and making sure the BBQ stays on. Then we will start again with fresh courage.

We are grateful for your involvement & support and wish you God's blessing. Enjoy the summer holidays! ☀️

Blessings,

Mart-Jan & Talitha,  
Joy, Micha and Amy

HomeFront  
Team



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