



Slowdown & reflect

In "Alice in Wonderland", Alice stands at a t-junction and asks the cat, "Which road should I take?" To which the cat replies, "It depends where you want to go." Alice: "I don't really care". The cat: "Then it doesn't matter which road you take either".

Standing still and reflecting. Sometimes this is necessary. Are you still doing the right things? Do you still have a clear vision of where you are heading? What is Jesus calling you to?

Just admit it - I haven't seen the movie "Alice in Wonderland" at all, but this quote has been in my head for several years. I heard it once in Cambodia, and it makes so much 'sense'. Do you recognise that sometimes you are so busy with the

'now' that you lose sight of the bigger picture? What was it all about again? Where were we heading again?

Last summer, as a family, we engaged with this issue. Honestly - Dutch life, and pace of life - got to us quite a lot. Together, we read the book 'The radical elimination of hurry', among others. Highly recommended. Just a question from the book: "Was Jesus ever in a hurry?" And where does hurry actually come from? At the same time, we read the newsletter of a fellow missionary. She wrote:

*"I became more and more convinced: **Less is more. Less new contacts, more depth in current contacts.***

Less new activities, more focus in existing activities. Less superficial knowledge, more deep growth.

*Less being busy, more sitting at Jesus' feet. **Less packed agendas, more rest.***

And was it not the Lord Jesus himself who said, "Come to Me ... and I will give you rest"? (Matthew 11:28). Rest, life, relationship, enjoyment. These are words that resonate.

Of course, these words are not opposed to effort, going for something, vision, a dot on the horizon.

But - and this is the crux - we may and want to go from an attitude of rest, from a place of worship. From a relationship with Him and through that with people around us. Always filled first and foremost by Jesus Himself.

Because if we are not filled ourselves, what do we have to pass on to the people around us?

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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!

SABBATH

God's gift to you. That is what the 'Sabbath' is. Not as a law, not as a 'must' on a specific day. But as a may, an invitation. This of course touches on what we wrote about on page 1 - and we try to put into practice as a family. First and foremost, the Sabbath is a time to set apart and enjoy the Lord Jesus Himself. Relationship, relaxation and worship are the ingredients. The Sabbath is also a rhythm - a time to look forward to and enjoy. Sabbath literally means 'to cease'. 'To cease' says the English. To be at rest - trusting in His provision. Beautiful that the name by which Jesus shows Himself is "I am".

What do you do with this gift? Last summer I got to speak on this topic in the church here in Almere. Watch 'em via [this link](#) - and I hope you can also do something with the 'keys' I give you. (It is in Dutch however - maybe you can understand some..)

ALONGSIDERS >> CAMBODIA 🇰🇭

We've met several times now: the group we're going to Cambodia with in about 8 weeks. How much we are looking forward to it! Travelling together with 12 cool people. Serving together, being inspired together. Our prayer is that, while walking and serving together, we will be 'served' by God during this trip. That He shows

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, please use the Dutch bank details as stated below:

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

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Himself and we may learn more from Him. Learning on a heart level. And then take that back to the Netherlands, not to keep it to ourselves, but to pass it on to the people around us.

This journey is a step in faith. For Mart-Jan it is the first time back, and for many of the participants it is the first time to Asia. Exciting, then. Together, we are hosting a camp at Shalom Valley. We are looking forward to that immensely. If you want to keep up to date with the trip, you can do so via a dedicated WhatsApp group. As a group, we are sponsoring the youth camp there. Should you want to participate in that - cool! You do that [easily via this link](#). #Thanks!

ALONGSIDERS IN THE NETHERLANDS 🇳🇱

All kinds of great things are also happening in the Netherlands itself.

Just before the summer holidays, our first [YouVersion reading plan](#) on discipleship came online. It makes us grateful to see and hear back how this plan is a blessing in the Netherlands and abroad.

HomeFront Team



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After the summer, Jonah started at Alongsiders as a VIAA intern and in the coming period he will regularly post new reading plans online. We are grateful that Jonah has stepped in and look forward to what the Lord will do in him and through him through this internship.

In early October, we organised a film & worship evening. The focus was on worshipping the Lord together and being inspired by the stories from Cambodia and the Netherlands. Chenda, Phearom, Tom and many others - they are examples for us, and present us with a challenge. Because being a disciple and making disciples - that is Jesus' great commission. And with that, the question for us is: >> Who do you disciple?



OUR FAMILY

As a family, we are doing well. We wrote briefly in the previous newsletter that we are going through an intense time. It is not always easy, and at the same time we see how this time keeps us on our toes and we learn new things. How it keeps us close to the Lord and close to each other. And that, I think, is the intention. So intense, for sure, but thankfully not without perspective.

Joy (14) is enjoying a nice school rhythm with nice contacts in class, as well as time and space to spend a lot of time with her violin. After the summer, on the advice of her teacher, she joined a new initiative - Muziektaalent Almere. A music school for children who are talented and seriously considering going further with music.

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A preparatory course for the conservatoire. Joy enjoys the lessons, playing together, opportunities to gain experience on stage. It is beautiful to see how she seeks how she may use her gift for the Lord and how she wants to do so from a place of rest. Guess which book she has been reading 😊

Micha (12) restarted VWO at the end of September at a new school - a place that suits him better. Personal attention and support in a smaller group are doing him good. From a school of over 1800 pupils to 130. From a class of 31 to about 10. He enjoys going to school again. We see him blossoming, enjoying himself and making new contacts. There is room to learn again. Thank you for your prayers and care for him!

Amy (8) has started ballet this school year. Every Monday afternoon, she spins laps in the ballet school. At home, she practices a lot and it is nice to see how she enjoys it. At school, she is doing well and has fun interactions in class. She enjoys subjects that are a bit 'out of the box' the most. However, she continues to suffer from physical complaints and we are still trying to find out where this

exactly comes from. Are you praying with us?

The two of us are doing well. We enjoy each other, our vocation and (generally 😊) the challenges that come with it. We like doing fun things together. The other day, we celebrated our 15th wedding anniversary. What a precious gift to share life together. We discovered this summer that all five of us really enjoy sailing and we have done so regularly as a family. Exercising together and relaxing at the same time is a good combination! We are also grateful for beautiful friendships here in Almere. It is a blessing to have people over regularly.

Besides being a family, (being) Alongsiders, Mart-Jan enjoys speaking engagements at various places around the country. Talitha recently completed a 3-year pastoral care course at the CPC. Digging into the Word ourselves and sharing it with others - through speaking, but much more often just through everyday life - is rich. The Bible says the Word is "living and powerful". To experience that in your own life and in the lives of others you walk with is sometimes complicated and confronting, but also cool and impressive!

Another cool thing to report. About two years ago, Mart-Jan wrote the ["Diamond of Discipleship"](#). Many people then asked for a printed version. We don't have the resources for that ourselves, but have found a publisher and the good news is: in December it will come out on paper (only in Dutch..!) We hope and pray that it may once again be a blessing. More info to follow. (If you happen to know a English publisher... let me know.)

SLOWDOWN & REFLECT

Slowing down is no 'wasted' time. When we have the courage to stand still and become still we pick up our 'ears' to hear what Master Jesus tells us. And then when He speaks we receive direction and clarity again to continue. Standing still and reflecting is an act of worship.

Dear reader, thank you for reading all the way to here. For sympathising, praying along, giving along & supporting in all kinds of ways. We really need it, but also experience it. We do it together. Thank you for wanting to be our 'Alongsider' in this way. Blessings 🙏

Mart-Jan & Talitha
Joy, Micha and Amy

