News Letter

MART-JAN &
TALITHA

JOY
MICHA
AMY



Preparing for the Vision Trip 2027!

Followers of the Way

During one of our recent team days, we took some time to listen attentively, several times, to a short letter that John wrote to Gaius almost two thousand years ago (3 John in the Bible).

How remarkable that such an ancient letter can suddenly come to life and have so much to say about our lives today!

John writes to someone he knows and loves. The fact that he truly knows Gaius is evident in how he knows that his soul is doing well and wishes that all may go well with him in every aspect of his life.
John *sees* Gaius, encourages him, and acknowledges the good he sees in him. He is overjoyed when he hears from others about Gaius' love for people, how he remains faithful to the truth and walks in it.
That faithfulness is reflected not so much in what Gaius says he believes, but above all in the way he lives. He welcomes people, offers hospitality, cares for others, and helps them along their way. Gaius is simply faithful in the place where God has put him. And by doing so, he contributes to something far greater than himself. John calls him a "fellow worker for the truth."

In the same way, each of us has a place in God's story as "fellow workers for the truth." We don't all have the same role or calling. Some go out, while others provide a place to come home to. Some speak, while others listen. Some are in the spotlight, while others work behind the scenes to make it possible for the work to continue. It is precisely in these differences that we can complement one another.

The first followers of Jesus were also known as "people of the Way." After all, following Jesus is not simply about believing a set of truths. It is a path we walk, following in his footsteps. A journey on which we keep putting one foot in front of the other: a step of faith, followed by a step of obedience.

The way John writes made us reflect.

Love is the underlying tone of his words. He takes the time to encourage and affirm Gaius, urging him to follow what is good. At the same time, he addresses what is wrong and takes responsibility as a leader to do something about it.

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This News is sent out about 3-4 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!

The letter invites us to reflect on the way we communicate with one another. How much do our letters, emails, and WhatsApp messages resemble those of John? Do we truly see others and know how their souls are doing? Do others know how your soul is doing? Do we take the time to lovingly encourage one another and acknowledge the good we see in each other?

The letter encourages us to be people of the Way, just like John and Gaius. People who not only know the truth but also reflect it by walking in it. People who truly know one another and genuinely care about how others are doing in every aspect of life: spirit, soul, and body. People who faithfully do what is good in the place where God has put them, helping one another fulfil their different callings. People who encourage one another to do what is good and extend peace—shalom—to one another, not only through their words but also through their actions.

Shalom: the peace of God that makes whole what is broken and brings all that He has created into flourishing, so that we may live in connection with Him, ourselves, others, and all of creation.

Where is God asking you to be faithful right now?

Who can you truly see, encourage, or help take their next step in following Jesus today?

How can you reflect something of God's shalom in the way you communicate with others today?

ALONGSIDERS IN THE NETHERLANDS

We are grateful for the work God has entrusted to us: investing in young lives while learning from them along the way.

Together with a wonderful group of young people, we are preparing for the **Vision Trip to Cambodia in January 2027**. Soon, we'll share a fun introduction video in which they'll introduce themselves, share their plans, and tell you what they'll be doing!

We are looking forward with anticipation to the **Compass Retreat** in November and are grateful for how we can continue to build our small retreat team, step by step, as well as strengthen our partnership with the team that runs De Kleine Hoeve. Next year, we will also offer teams of young adult leaders the opportunity to go on retreat together. A place to slow down, be still, encounter God, and grow in their connection with him, with one another, and in the shared mission he has entrusted to them.

It is encouraging to see how the participation of two young adults in a **Compass Retreat** has impacted the way they walk alongside other young people in their local church here in the Netherlands. And how, in other places, church members are encouraging their young adults to join the **Vision Trip** or take part in a **Compass Retreat**, even contributing financially where needed to make this possible. What a beautiful investment in the next generation and in their own faith communities!

Over the past few weeks, we've had a special opportunity: we were able to get started on writing the materials for the first six episodes of **Season 6 of The Chosen**! For each episode, we once again created a Group Discussion Guide to help young people meaningfully connect what they see in the series with the Bible and their everyday lives. Each episode also has a corresponding **reading plan** in the **YouVersion app**. The **Group Discussion Guides for Seasons 1–5** are now available through the **jesus.net platform**.

We are grateful for the warm and valuable partnership with OneHope and, through them, with Come and See. It is a privilege to work together in this way, creating resources that help people around the world get to know Jesus better and follow him.

FAMILY UPDATE

All five of us are loving our new home and the space it gives us to breathe. We're grateful that a Christian family bought our old house and is now shining their light in 'our' little neighbourhood.

This summer, we welcomed a beautiful new niece into our family! We are so thankful for this miracle and precious gift of new life.

We're also grateful for the wonderful connection with our former neighbour, who occasionally joins an activity at our church and is reading the Bible for the very first time in her life. For the relaxed and meaningful relationship with the previous owner of our new home. And for the gardener who helped us tame the jungle in our garden (at least a little!) and has shown genuine interest in the good news. And for our first steps towards creating our very own little vegetable garden! :)

This year, we introduced something new as a family: a 'crazy stuff' fund, setting aside some money for special moments when the five of us do things we wouldn't normally do, but that we all absolutely love. Like spending a day at a treetop adventure park, where Amy immediately takes us to



the highest, most challenging black course (and leads the way herself!), or going to an Oslo Gospel Choir concert together. Golden moments!

If you receive our prayer updates, you'll know that we're going through a challenging season as a family. There are several complex situations in our lives, each requiring perseverance from each of us in different ways. The combination of everything has been demanding a lot from us for quite some time, and in some areas, we've had to shift our priorities to make things sustainable.

We can't go into the details of everything that's happening in this newsletter, but the Lord knows. We are deeply grateful for the loving care, prayers, and practical support of several brothers and sisters during this difficult time. Thank you so much!
In some areas, we're slowly but surely beginning to find a little more breathing room and see some light ahead. That makes a tremendous difference, and we are truly thankful.

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PRAYER SUPPORT

Your faithful prayers and support make a difference! Give thanks with us:

1. For our new home, the peace and breathing room it gives us as a family, and the wonderful connections with people around us.
2. For the enthusiastic group of young people joining the **Vision Trip** to Cambodia in January, and for the wonderful preparations already underway.
3. For the impact of the **Compass Retreats** and the opportunities to continue growing our retreat team.
4. For churches and brothers and sisters who invest in the next generation by encouraging and financially supporting young people to take part in a **Vision Trip** or **Compass retreat.**
5. For the loving care and support we are receiving as a family during this challenging season, and for the breathing room and new perspective that are slowly beginning to emerge in some areas.
6. For the special opportunity to contribute to the Group Discussion Guides and reading plans for Season 6 of **The Chosen**, and for the valuable collaboration with our partners.

Pray with us:

7. For the **Vision Trip** in January 2027: for the ongoing preparations, for the group to grow in unity and connection, and for all that God wants to do in and through this trip.
8. For the **Compass Retreats**: for open hearts, God's guidance for the retreat leaders, and continued growth of our retreat team.
9. That **The Chosen** resources will continue to help many people around the world get to know Jesus better, grow in their faith, and follow him in their everyday lives.
10. For someone to take on the leadership of **The 180**, and for the groups that are using these materials. Pray that more and more young people will find safe places where they can get to know and follow Jesus together.
11. For the right people to join and strengthen our Alongsiders team and board.
12. For the situation in Nepal, where the impact of the devastating floods is still deeply felt. Pray for our **Alongsiders in Nepal** and the children affected by the floods. Pray for the efforts to help these children return to school, provide individual care and support, and connect them with government assistance. Also pray for the plans to organise ten children's camps and to equip young Nepali Christians to walk alongside these vulnerable children as their Alongsiders for the long term.
13. For our family: for the strength we each need, rest and restoration during this challenging season, and that we may remain close to the Lord and connected to one another. Please pray especially for wisdom as we seek a suitable school for Amy.



Shalom! In Christ,

Mart-Jan & Talitha
Joy, Micha and Amy

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Building Together

Alongsiders does not provide our income. For the work we do, we depend on donations.

With your support, we can continue investing in young people: helping them follow Jesus and pass on the life they receive from Him to others.

Would you like to help build this work with us? You can make a donation to the following bank account:

Foundation: Nehemia (ANBI)
Please note: Project Alongsiders Europe

IBAN: NL66 SNSB 0931 7011 39
BIC: SNSBNL2A

