

"Our dream was transformed into God's plan for our lives, to learn to live in entire dependence upon Him."



BUTTERFLY &
European Christian Mission
December 2016

Newsletter

AMMO & DRAIJE
MARTHA BUITENPOST

Dear family and friends,

This month, it is three years since we launched Butterfly. Our dream was to start a missional group to help people grow as a disciple of Jesus, and with that group looking for connection with people who are looking for answers to their questions of life and for whom a church as a place for answers isn't an option (anymore).

Flashback

How did it go in the last three years? And how successful has Butterfly been? Questions that we want to discuss in this review. To start directly: we would have liked to receive space within the congregation of which we are members of, to pioneer with a missional group. That space was not received, so we had to find our own way. The missional group which we started, has fallen apart after two years. Many of the dreams with which we started three years ago, looks to be shattered. It seems that success failed to materialize.

Success?

Our hearts reaches out to those who are at the bottom of society. And we wanted to help people in their life long process of growing in discipleship. In the past three years we have learned a lot of things through these 'setbacks'. Again and again we were pointed that it is far more important to know who you are and where you find your identity in than to the things you do. Precisely the 'being' determines the choices you make, which activities you start, what you pauses and what you stop completely.



It is not a matter of what your think is a good or efficient activity or what success story you can tell people when they ask how you are going. That's often looking for human success. The question is not how many people we already have led to Jesus or how large the group of participants at the Alpha is. Success is much more to know what the Lord wants from you: *"To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."* (Micah 6:8).

We have experienced that walking in this way gives more confidence and perseverance in the Ministry to which we are called to. From this view, for example, makes an Alpha always successful, even if only one participant shows up. And it makes us grateful when we now may give more huddels than that one we gave for our own mission group. And also that we really could concretize our desire to look after lonely people after the mission group stopped. We decided to start with a living room project in december and the preparations for the establishment of a local Present Foundation (similar to Besom in the UK) are in full swing.

In the past three years Proverbs 3:6 become a reality for us: *"in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."*

Alpha

This fall we had our fifth course, which will end on december 20th with an Alpha-party. We also joined the global Alpha campaign with Bear Grylls by posting billboards along the main roads in our village.

Prayerstation

Every fortnight on Saturday afternoon we stand along with others in the citycentre in Drachten to offer prayers. Addressing passersby sometimes leads to rejection, but often to nice conversations. As with young people who are quite interested to hear about Jesus. Then he can get a place next to the Buddha image on the mantelpiece. Or the Muslim that we greet with a smile and tell him that we may call Allah our Father.



Breakfast during Alphaweekend

But also seniors who have lost God for any reason. Sometimes they share their distress and pain with us and then we can tell them that God didn't lose them. It is beautiful and intensive work to be used by God to walk along with passersby and to give them back to Him afterwards.



Prayerstation Drachten

Refugees

Since May we are in contact with a Syrian family. They have an approved status and Amo visits them weekly to help them learning the Dutch language. They are Christians and therefore Amo brings the once a month to an Arab church service in Groningen. The contact is getting better and it's exciting to get to know each other's culture. Especially if we joined them in a Syrian meal and they use a Dutch meal with us.

Huddles

A huddel is a kind of coaching in discipleship. In addition to the three huddels we give to ECM missionary colleagues by Skype, we also started a huddel at home with two couples from the local area.

Finance

Our aim is in addition to our income from mission-related work to live from gifts and donations. We long to work on our mission on a full-time basis. In addition to the income from a volunteer allowance from Nederland Zoekt and a fee for giving huddels, we already



Syrian guests



Example of a Huddle

Prayerpoints:

- Thank Him for all the blessings that we experience in all the things we do.
- Pray for growth and persistence for the young believers who we welcome at home.
- Pray for insight and wisdom for the people in whom we invest, so we are able to guide them in the growth of their relationship with Jesus.
- Pray that God may provide in all we need for every day.
- Pray for expansion of our circle of friends, so that we will be able to continue this work.

received a lot of donations. You as a donor gives us the possibility to continue with our good work! Thank you very much for your support. It makes us thankful and happy and it encourages us enormously to continue with our work.

For all others we hope and pray that you want to accept the challenge of this newsletter to support us and becoming a part of our mission. If you want to contribute, you will find all necessary data in the Colophon below.

Thank you so much for your involvement!

Amo en Martha

COLOFON

Amo and Martha Draijer, founders of Butterfly, focus on discipleship and church planting in the Buitenpost area of the Dutch province of Friesland.

Amo and Martha are financially dependent on gifts. You can support them by making a donation to the bankaccount of Stichting ECM-Nederland. IBAN: NL02 INGB 0000254997 (BIC/SWIFT: INGBNL2A) citing "Fund Butterfly"

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