

Autumn 2017 prayer and newsletter from

Missionsmiths

Roland and Carolien Smith working together with European Christian Mission



Dear family and friends, 'We are a world in pieces. We need to be a world at peace' said the UN secretary-general, addressing the annual gathering of world leaders at the UN headquarters this autumn. David knew what it was like to experience insecurity. Hunted in the desert, he found inner reorientation reflecting on a brilliant and lasting vision: 'I have seen You in the sanctuary and beheld Your power and glory' (Psalm 63:2). Lord Jesus Christ, please forgive us for looking elsewhere for what we cannot find but in the pure light and love of Your presence. Help us to be peacemakers, to bring reconciliation, and freedom from fear, in situations where there is uncertainty or insecurity.

Oct 25 - 27 ministry direction group (R - Madrid)

Nov 7 - 11 member care consultation (C - Madrid)

Nov 29 - Dec leadership meetings (R - Sinsheim, Germany)

Thank you for praying for the work here and internationally. There is so much to give thanks for to God! Many of you have been **praying for several years** for people to join the team here in Maastricht. The Schenkel family (*photo, right*) with OM arrived earlier this year and now the Laan family (*photo, below left*) have joined the team. Matthijs and Simone Laan have 5 young children and worked for 8 years in Zambia with Liebenzell Mission. They adopted Faith (*far left*) while in Africa – she was born with no legs. The Laan family are joining ECM as associate members and we have been enjoying helping with caring, cooking, and transporting furniture in our trailer. Carolien is their ECM member care facilitator. So **thank you again for seeking God's face** for new workers here!



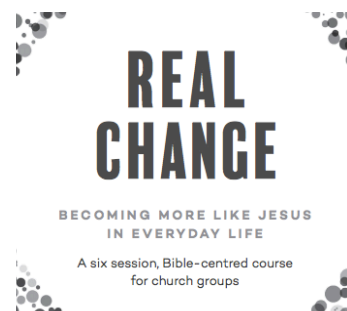
Please join with us in praying for team leaders Tjerk and Anneke van Dijk and their three children, who are delighted with God's provision. The team is meeting local families and refugees for fun in the parks at weekends and sharing their lives and love for God. Amazing!

This autumn we are organising the January ECM NL/Belgium prayer days at a Christian retreat centre in Belgium (www.chconnect.be). As the network is growing, the group could be from 12 to 25 people, so we are **praying for wisdom** to manage the reservation well. Last year it was lovely to hear one another's prayer requests and to search the Scriptures together for God's illumination, together with the children.

The three missionary families in Belgium are working in Brussels and Kortrijk and applying their skills in various creative ways with Arabic, French and Flemish speaking people e.g. ministering in a prison, lecturing diplomats on religion and culture at the International School of Protocol and Diplomacy, writing Arabic Christian worship songs, teaching RE and English, meeting mums with young families, and leading in churches. There is so much to learn from one another.

Do **pray with us that there would be funds** for the different missionary families to attend the ECM prayer days. The Laan family would love to come, but now they need more support than they did when serving in Zambia. Please pray for their supporting churches and friends in the Netherlands to continue helping them now. Also for Faith, that a suitable **special needs school** would be found for her.

Also this autumn Carolien is helping three ECM colleagues plan the November training days for the ECM member care facilitators. She is leading two sessions on the subject of change, from the Biblical Counselling UK course *Real Change – becoming more like Jesus in everyday life*, by Andrew Nicholls and Helen Thorne. Thank God for this opportunity for Carolien and **please pray** that she will have clarity in her preparations, manage the use of materials well and facilitate the discussions helpfully.



Carolien is enjoying helping in the Baptist Church in Maastricht with planning Sunday services every month. This format is learning about and discussing Bible passages in smaller groups and the year theme is desiring God. We've been getting to know new neighbours - families with young children - and had a pancake afternoon at home last month. In a few days we'll invite them to a fun pumpkin soup afternoon. Please join with us in praying that as we learn more about their needs and troubles, that **people would open their hearts to the Lord**.



Roland's three-year coordination role for the integration of New Hope missionaries into ECMI ends in the summer of 2018. With colleagues he has been working on their training budget for 2018 and soon on field covenant agreements for Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and the Ukraine. In October he'll be meeting other team members of the ministry direction group to help process all the ministry plans and projects of ECM teams. Locally he's started helping with preaching and music at the Anglican church in Maastricht.

We are enjoying the space and change at home now that three have moved out. Stephen (23) has a room 2 hours' north at Wageningen University. He's doing an MSc in development and rural innovation. Maarten (22) is in Stockholm for half a year on a work placement as part of his MSc in industrial design at Eindhoven University. Léonie (19) has a room in Maastricht city centre and is in her second year of medical school. Rhiannon (13) misses everyone but has a happy school social circle and invites her friends over. Praise God that they are all well and enjoying discovering the world and their place in it. We **pray they would all walk in God's ways**. Thank you for uplifting them in prayer over all the years.



Roland is having physio for sciatica and investigations at the hospital here into the cause. Driving and sitting are painful. We thank God for good medical facilities and pray for an accurate diagnosis and effective treatment.

With Christian love from Roland, Carolien, Stephen, Maarten, Léonie and Rhiannon.

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