



In Him, For Him & Through Him

Reaching Europe for Christ Together

Dear friends, we apologize that it has been longer than usual since you received our newsletter. Many times we hear 'oh, yes, I read about that in your newsletter' or 'I really enjoy getting the newsletter'. It is our hope that this gives you a clear picture of what you are involved in as we serve Him in and throughout Europe together!

Year in Review: In looking back and remembering what the Lord has done in the last year (and He did a lot!) we can only say we had an incredible year filled with many times to celebrate with people as they married, had babies and began their walk with the Lord. And, as you know, we had some tragic events that also hit us hard, like the fire in the church building. All of these things have only served to strengthen our resolve to press in and believe that 'all things work together for good for those who love the Lord and are called according to His purpose' Romans

8:28. And we are excited about what the Lord is going to do in 2008!

We would like to share a virtual 'year-in-review' so you can see for yourself on our web site via a short video clip of some highlights from this past year that we were involved with. Check it out at: www.herman.europeanmissions.org and then click on "Year-in-review 2008" to see it.

Building Update: After the fire in the church building a few months ago, the reconstruction was finished and then our work began. The church turned out to paint, scrub, clean, hang lights, heaters (very important in the winter over here), test all the refurbished equipment, install a whole new kitchen area and then finally set out the chairs once again for the service. It was an amazing transformation! And it all took place mid-December. So we

were able to have our Christmas Sunday service back in our own building! Yippee! We were all so excited to be 'home' again. At the same time the ground was prepared right



Restoration after the fire

next to the building, the bull dozers started the work on the new sanctuary, the pipes and cement panels were set in place and the steel beams went up. Believe me, this is making it sound so easy but in reality it was a lot of hard work. The works continues and is scheduled to be done sometime in April or May. Then our work will begin: finishing the 'shell' of the building with heat and painting and adding a kitchen once again. We hope the pictures will do justice to how exciting this is for such a young church to actually build a new church in Holland. It is unusual and we are not taking this for granted. It will be a great place for many people to come and find Him.

Ministry news: Two couples were set in as Elders for the church, Andreas and Ira Kellert and Andre and Wimke Schuurmans, two babies were born and dedicated to the Lord with more on the way, and there were three weddings in the last few months. Whew! This young church keeps us busy. We are currently working with 2 couples for pre-marriage and there are 3 more engaged

Here's a short re-cap of some things we saw the Lord do this past year:

- salvation – many people made decisions to begin their walk with Jesus. Remember the story of Venus from Iran? She is doing well, growing in Christ in a church in Sweden. She visited Delft and we had a short but wonderful visit with her. Keep praying for her.
- healings – the prayer team has made many hospital and home visits to pray for the sick and they are praying for people at the end of the church service,
- marriages – three couples were married,
- baptisms – several people were baptized in the cold lake, called Delftse Hout.
- baby dedications - two babies were born and dedicated to the Lord (Elias and Janis) and what a privilege is was to stand with their parents and pray for them,
- setting in of two new elders – the leadership team is growing again
- worship team weekend where we each tried out new instruments and the new worship leaders led some sessions for the first time
- leading a marriage weekend with our friends Erik and Carola and meeting with couples preparing for marriage – we continue to enjoy meeting with young couples as they prepare for marriage. And we are meeting with two more couples now
- Healing Center in Augusta, Georgia – five of the prayer team traveled to Whole Life Ministries, Augusta for the beginning of their training. We had lots of fun and learned a lot too. Now we're in a year of training as a team before the next step of implementing more of what we are learning.
- The fire that destroyed part of the church building really hit us hard but the church really pulled together to clean it and then prepare it again so we could meet in our building again. And many of you sent financial gifts to help as we lost much in the fire, like my guitar amp was so damaged that it is 'history' now.)
- The construction on the new building and main sanctuary has started and should be done in June – we hope.



New building work

Ephesians 1:18-19 (NLT) I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance. I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him.

The five prayer team members who went to The Healing Center for training in Augusta are diligently studying and meet each week to pray and talk about what we are learning. The plan is to use this year to prepare and practice along the way to pray for people who need healing. We've already seen amazing things – all the glory to the Lord! It is a journey together and we're excited to go for more.



with a trio at the Christmas service with the worship team. Herman also picked up his long love of photography and has already enjoyed chasing down some birds to photograph on our day off. **Paul and Heather** have had a transition year as he was activated by the army. The grandchildren have grown so fast.

and will get married later in the year. Herman has been preaching regularly (our preaching time is split between David and Herman) and has also focused much of his attention on mentoring young men in leadership and overseeing the 15 home groups. **David Koerts** is the national coordinator for EQUIP Leadership Training that has trained over 5,000 Dutch leaders over the past year. He recently received an award from John Maxwell for his work in this effort. We are delighted to serve such a progressive and passionate group who love the Lord and are seeking to walk out their lives as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Another young lady, **Simona**, is here from Romania. She is also in transition in her ministry and is getting a good time of prayer and refreshing. And our good friend **Jamie Chan** came for a short visit before she leaves the mission field of Europe to return to the states. We've been available to help during times of transition.



International christmas dinner

International Christmas Dinner: Every year there is a Christmas dinner for internationals from the university. There is really good food and a program of music and sharing the Gospel. This year a group of churches worked together under the leadership of Bram, a young Dutch man with a big vision to reach out to the internationals in Delft. He and his team did a great job of feeding about 100 students with great food from different countries. We stopped in to see for ourselves how wonderful their efforts were.

Personal News: Betsy took up a long time desire to play her mother's violin once again after 35 years of not playing and has already grown to the place of playing with the worship and intercession times and played

Josh is 13, Cameron is 6, Ashlyn is 4 and Ava is 1 1/2. What a joy to talk with them using skype on the internet. Even little Ava says, "Hi Grandpa".

Miesje and Cam are expecting their first baby in March and they are still enjoying their home in Florida. Betsy was able to be there for a visit and enjoyed attending a baby shower for Miesje. She has been 'showered' by family and friends (thank you!) A few

more things to get and a few more weeks to wait and their son, Coen will arrive.

Betsy and I send our thanks and blessings to each one of you.

Our Romanian missionary friends, Tana and Andrea Aldea, came to Holland and we were able to meet with them for prayer and counseling as they transition in their ministry. They have returned to Romania and will move from Constanta where they worked with the street prostitute ministry to begin their next step in ministry in the city of Cluj in the next months.



Tana & Andrea

Upcoming events:

February - Annual 'Support Strengthening Trip' in Augusta, Georgia and North Carolina

March - Coen Carlsen, grandbaby #5, is due mid-March!

April - The construction will be nearing completion and then the finishing work will start. Do you want to come and help?

April 3-5 Discipleship seminar

April 30 - Wedding for Dirk and Sunny, Italy

Feel free to contact us: Address: **Hugo de Grootstraat 142 2613TZ Delft Netherlands** Phone: **+31 15 2135499 Home +31 6 14658548 Mobile** hermanb@europeanmissions.org betsyb@europeanmissions.org

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