

“But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

2 Petrus 3:8-9



European Christian Mission
March 2017

Nieuwsbrief
WOUTER & van der TOORREN
MAAIKE

Dear friends

We've already reached March! Time flies! While I'm writing this, I realise there is so little time and so much to do! We will update you on a few new things that have been happening here.

Alta Crista

Alta Cristã is busy building stronger foundations. As a team we have put together a clear vision and have got some strong ideas of what we would like to happen in the near future. Having this clear vision gives us a strong basis as a team and a solid ground on which to develop new activities. At the moment we are working on strengthening the existing relationships with the people that come to the churchplant and the activities. The most important goal however is to build on a strong foundation for their faith in God. A foundation on which they can grow in faith.

As I am writing this, our colleagues are finalising a contract to rent a shop, where we can start our church. It is important to be visible in the area and to have a home base where all the activities can be run: the women's group that meets once every two weeks, the young people who need to have their own space. It also should be a place where people can walk into and find a home as well as a church to attend. Please pray it will all be finalised at the end of April.

Urban market

One of the activities we are involved in with Alta Cristã is the 'urban market'. This is a craft and home produce market that is held once a month. As a church we have a stall there and hand out bibles and talk to people passing by. We also do some face painting and make balloon animals to attract the children that are walking around in the park. Often there will be a group of young people with sports activities. This way we want to become more involved in area.

Through this we met a couple from China. They have a two-year-old son, but are very much on their own. One of our colleagues was the first one to talk to them in a long time. They have been very willing to come to church but because of their restless son, they have not stayed yet. The women's group have taken her under their wing and they try to support them and show the love of Jesus.

“Escolhas” – Music school

Wouter teaches at a music school one afternoon and evening a week. He has 6 students and he likes teaching piano. The students vary in age between 9 and 60, but all belong to a church and want to learn the piano to be able to play in church. We love it!

Another new initiative is collaboration between the music school and a local public school. The school has asked if the music school is able to give lessons. This would be a great opportunity to bring the gospel into the schools! Please pray that this will happen in the new school year.

Together with the other music teachers, Wouter is looking into other possibilities to preach the gospel through music and personal relationships. We see God at work! He knows what we are good at.



Wouter at the urban market

Portugal

Longs for justice

We want to encourage Young believers to be disciples of Jesus Christ.

Short term mission

Often people would like to have a little taste of what mission work is, or want to spend a shorter time serving the Lord. This is called short term mission. It has become Maaïke's responsibility to be the contact person in Portugal, working together with the international coordinators. There are some interesting possibilities. How about making a prayer trip, or supporting a family for a month, or being a musician willing to serve for 6 months in different churches? It would be wonderful to meet some of you through these possibilities. If you know someone who would be interested, pass it on!



Support

We are very grateful for the support we get from our colleagues here and in ECM. Being there for each other is very important. This is one kind of support we really enjoy. The other kind of support is the support we get from our sponsors, the churches, family and even people we don't know! It is the prayer, practical and financial support. Without that, it would be impossible for us to be here.

With the growth of the activities with Alta Cristã and in the music school, Wouter's job is becoming a burden.

We would love to add some churches to our supporters group. If you feel your church would be willing to support us regularly, that would be a huge help! We are more than willing to skype call, send letters or even come over if that is required.

If Wouter could stop his office job, we could start more church planting activities and help the church of our Lord grow.

Closing

While the time is flying by, we realise that God is still working here, in your home town and in the world. We see God's work in our family – the kids have made good friends and enjoy going to school. Being trilingual is a bonus, but makes for funny sentences sometimes. Wouter's back is acting up and Maaïke had her gallbladder removed recently. But these things bring us closer to God. We are depending on Him.

Jolijn said the other day: "Mum, God will use the difficult things as well, He knows what he is doing." The simple trust of the faith of a child brings me to a moment of quiet reflection. He will continue, His work is not done, and by His mercy we will continue as well.

With kind regards,

*Wouter & Maaïke
Jolijn, Noraly & Boaz*

COLOFON

European Christian Mission (ECM)

Is an interdenominational and international organization which focuses on churchplanting in Europ, in areas with (almost) no Christians

Wouter & Maaïke are financially dependend on donations. You can support them by donation to them through this website link

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