

# Newsletter 12 - Ijoe de Keijzer

**Sariaya, September 2007**

Dear family, friends and acquaintances,

It was great to see so many of you during my leave in the Netherlands. It was a very busy time, but also full of blessing. Nephew and nieces have grown a lot, graduated, married; I've seen the new world citizens Danit and Lonneke for the first time and already could nicely chatter with them. Furthermore also the birthday of my mother and brother, the 60(!) year wedding anniversary of my grandparents on my fathers side and the passing away of my grandmother to my mothers side, after a period of sickness.

## **Reversed culture shock**

- When I stepped in the car, the first was I did was to lock all doors. Something what in the Philippines is absolutely necessary to not be robbed or worse things; people who rode with me looked at me oddly...
- Being able to simply drink water from the tap
- U was also getting use to eating with knife and fork instead of hands or fork and spoon.

## **Food, food, food...**

A time of eating many croquettes, molasses waffle, stew (although, according to Dutch standards, it wasn't the weather for it), asparagus and strawberries; all things I could not eat in the Philippines. Walking, shopping and going to the zoo with friends, giving many presentations in several schools and ecclesiastical municipalities, were more ingredients of a moved time in the Netherlands. Thanks to your good care I added 4 kilos the first month!

It was special to be able to talk Dutch again, experience Dutch church services, go out with the woman association... too much to name. To those, who I could not meet any more, I say: Hopefully it will succeed the next time.

## **Return to the Philippines**

The first days I really had to mind that I no longer could drink water from the tap and that an apple should be washed with soap and then preferably peeled also, before you can eat it. Within 2 months, I was able to prevent 2 robberies of my purse at the last moment. I was clearly back in the Philippines and am very glad for the alertness/intuition to preserve my stuff this 2 times and be save again. Can you keep praying for our security? Certainly also now during the arrest and trial of Cison in the Netherlands.

## **Change of address**

Most of you have received a photograph with my new address, which you can replace by the one mentioned below. We frequently say here: there is no possibility to be bored in the Philippines, it will always go differently than expected...

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Already sent mail will reach my via a detour. You will be curious of course for why. Before I went on leave it has been discussed with the field leaders and the Mindoro team to further use me in the Mangyan church and its put Bible school after my leave. Several weeks after arrival in Mindoro the leaders have indicated however that at this moment - until possibly the coming years - there is no possibility to place me in the Mangyan Bible school. In a short time, the Mindoro team have unexpectedly lost a number of people for medical reasons and almost all remaining people go on leave in the coming months. The team and the work under the Mangyan are already old (approx. 55 years) and it has put its spurs in the teamwork and cooperation with the Mangyan church (MTCA). For this reason they find it is not justifiable to take on a new worker who they cannot accompany. This is too bad for me, because my vocation still seems to go that way. At the same time we are expected to have an open and serving attitude towards God for receiving closer orders. These closer orders seem also incredible well timed.

In Central Quezon - a 4 hours drive from Manilla to the south west, a relatively new work has started in the places Sariaya, Candilaria and Lukban.

I now work in a team of Filipino (in Sariaya: 2 couples; in Candilaria: a widow and in Lukban: 1 couple). I still live in Sariaya, with the two couples and another missionary, who unfortunately almost goes on leave. These people are all church planters and evangelists who now want to train people amongst new believers to take over the growing work (to involve local Christians at giving leadership in the new municipalities). It is then the intention of the evangelists and church planters to go further, but I should get involved in training and education. At this moment the pastors have reached their maximum capacity for Bible studies, which you can keep per week - also because of the enormous travel times and bad roads. At the same time there is more hunger for the gospel and more people are asking for Bible studies, also to keep in their house. How again was it written in the Bible? The fields are white to



*Lucena is the nearest place on the map, approximately a half hour drive to the East.*



*My new house, with a mountain view on the one side and the sea on the other.*

harvest. The hunger is great, but who will learn to know God if there is nobody to tell them the Good News? Right now is the time for training and coaching of young believers, so that they also can hold Bible studies and children's clubs in their surroundings and by this way the work can grow further.

Besides that I will help in the local ACTS part-time Bible school; a Bible school of good standard, but part-time so that people can continue to work and can come from a larger region. At present, there are 13 students, of which half is already operative as a preacher or evangelist.

It was special to see how well, particularly at this moment, I seem to fit in the team, a special encouragement in a hard time of searching for Gods will.

### **Cavite - Trese Martires**

During the weeks I was in Manilla to visit projects and to discuss about my future with the field control, I have helped in in Cavite - Trese Martires (see map elsewhere in this letter). This is a housing project of the government an ample 3 hours from Manilla. People who lived alongside the railway tracks in Manilla (one of the places where OMF-Bukang Liwayway works) their houses are being torn down at present. The government then gives them a house in Cavite.

But there is no work, the people therefore have no income any more, or the men stay behind in Manilla to work and come home once every 2 weeks, which results in many broken families. In the area itself a school has been built, but the school and the number of teachers are not suited for the enormous quantity of students, so that sometimes there are 150 in a normal size class room. And then we are talking about the primary school!

Partly because of all uncertainties in the lives of people now there is an enormous openness for the gospel. A considerable number of OMF-church goers who lived along the railway tracks, also live there now. But they find it still very difficult to hold a Bible study and tell about Jesus to the people who ask for that, because they themselves have only become Christian very recently. I have been there a number of week-ends to encourage and giving trainings, to help them in discussing the many



*Our sleeping places. Why do we lie down on the floor? The bed was so shaky, that we that did not dare to! While raining water came in through front and backdoor.*



*One of the Bible study groups. A mix of young and old.*

questions concerning the Bible and God, which they hear daily. In my next newsletter I hope to introduce you to my new team-members.

### **Changes in the TFC**

Jozien van der Kruijk has stopped with the chairmanship of the TFC; we want to warmly thank her for her commitment past time. Gerda Meulenkamp also has left the committee; we also thank her for coordinating the prayer letters. The new chairman is now Eric Boer and we are glad that Heleen Oosterom has come to reinforce the TFC. She will especially take care of the PR of the TFC.

### **Finances**

By the end of October the treasurer of the TFC will send a financial overview. In this the financial statement of the whole will be given and each donor is informed of its own contribution in last year. Last year showed that of a number of donors the address data are not known, if you have not received anything, please contact the treasurer Arnoud Bosse.

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