

Hedel, April 2014

Home assignment in the Netherlands!

After, due to time zones, nearly 24 hours in the dark I arrived in the "winter" in the Netherlands. After a superb, warm reunion with dad and mam, we went to surprise my grandpa on his 86-th birthday. Since 8.00am was a bit early for a birthday, we stopped at a roadside restaurant for a cup of Dutch coffee. After such a long trip and jet lag (for my biological clock was already 14:00), I really did feel like eating a croquette. Since they are not in the Philippines. The clerk was so sweet to turn on the Frying pot especially for me! A warm welcome in the Netherlands!



Home assignment or vacation?

Home Leave is always a vague concept. Many people, both in the Netherlands and the Philippines think it is synonymous with holidays.

I will try to allow you a peak into my leave period.

I was able to tell about the work in the Philippines at two elementary schools in the Bommelerwaard and at a children's program during a mission day in Middelharnis. In addition, during four youth groups in Stolwijk, Wageningen and in Hedel.



Children in Middelharnis try drinking from a plastic bag.

One of the children came to me that she did not like the drink. I told her that it was just lemonade, we only drank it the Filipino way. Then she said to me: "But you are used to drink out of a bag, and we are not!"

Mission and church evenings there were in Hasselt, Hedel and Middelharnis and a women group in Rijswijk afternoon.



Parents of missionaries' day in Amerongen.

Very nice was also in Wageningen: in and after service was I was allowed to share. It was also amazing to again play with the volleyball team there, I had co-founded so many years ago. It was great to see as many people again.

On both the OMF and GZB office side there are evaluation interviews, as well as prayer days and other activities where our presence is requested.

In addition to the official activities, there are also personal dinners invitations, coffee and other activities just to connect with people who pray for you and / or your support and love to talk to you in a more personal way.

Then there's the administrative side. For my visa I need authorized and legalized birth certificate and diploma. So first to the town hall, then to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Philippine Embassy in The Hague. After having called, I knew exactly where to go and what to take. When I was in The Hague, they told me at the desk: "Sorry, your diploma must have a statement of the DUO, Groningen." Too bad they did not mention that on the phone. So, after Groningen, back to The Hague for a few days because you get autographs of

course not the same day ☺. In the Netherlands, there is bureaucracy as well...

This leave I was allowed to spend time with the team of 11 from Rhenen, that hopes to come next summer to me in the Philippines. They hope to help with repairs, vacation bible week, guitar lessons and other things to do in Manila. It's nice to get visitors from the Netherlands! Such a great team, with lots of enthusiasm.



Team Rhenen getting ready for the summer.

It is a real treat to experience spring again. In the Philippines it is always summer so to say. Bare trees we only see after a typhoon. It is so amazing to see nature come alive after winter.

Haiyan

While I am in the Netherlands, I still coordinate the relief from the GZB in the Philippines. In the meantime, there are again a lot of houses being rebuilt, 20,000 briefs were distributed to 500 families. There was a lot of clothing distributed, but underwear was also badly needed. Many things are still difficult to obtain and/or expensive.



Once I'm back, I hope along with Ptr. Wim Poldervaart of GZB visit to report the progress in the relief work.



For those who want to like to donate, or stay informed, please visit:
[# UQ - BaVq4dc](http://www.gzb.nl/project/gzb-houdt-noodhulpactie) or find me on facebook.

Greetings!

Iljo de Keijzer

COLOFON

De GZB en de OMF werken samen om de uitzending van Iljo de Keijzer mogelijk te maken.

Voor adreswijzigingen en overige informatie kunt u terecht bij de GZB:

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