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Corona restrictions on Samar

Langham preaching club



Quarterly news from the Philippines, April 2021 - nr. 51

News Letter **Iljo**



In the agenda

April 20, 2021 Online interview with candidates about Philippines.

April 19 and 26, 2021 Last two course days PKN training "Leading changes".

3 May 2021 Online prayer meeting OMF Wageningen / Ede

May 3 to 15, 2021 Asian Theology class

Langham every Saturday in June sermon training half online and half in small groups.

June 3, 2021 second Astra Zenica Vaccination

June 7, 2021, with permission from the Philippine Embassy, flight back to Manila.

Home Assignment in Covid times

Home Assignment is a time to rest.

Working in the tropics, with more than 20 hurricanes a year, kidnappings and medical evacuations (luckily I was able to arrange them for others) is often a bit more stressful than the average 9-5 job. That unwinding went quite well here in the Oosterbeek forests.

Home Assignment is a time to give lectures and tell about the work that I am allowed to do in the Philippines.

In a "normal" leave I travel from one side of the Netherlands to the other for prayer groups, mission evenings, youth gatherings and senior afternoons. None of this went through this time. Being able to share something has proven to be a real challenge. Many ideas turned out not to be possible. What was possible was a special Mission service in Wageningen and being able to personally visit different people.

Relationship with sending church

That was not easy without physical services and other activities, but I was able to play volleyball a few times, the Bible group went online, I was allowed to help with the formation & equipping committee, singing in the church and other small-scale activities could continue at certain times. That was a blessing. Also have visiting several congregation members, or met while walking. It was nice to get to know people better or now. A lovely walk through nature with Rev. Hoebe, a pastor in Wageningen, was also part of my leave.

Time to attend training sessions

These training courses could continue, through a training at the PKN about managing changes, through OMF a coaching training and through the ATS Bible School in the Philippines Adaptive Leadership. In addition, all kinds of webinars were offered via Epaphras (prison work). Unfortunately, most of it went online via Zoom, but still nice to use the time and learn things that will be useful to me again once I can return to the Philippines



Medical

Medical care in the Philippines has improved considerably, but not everything is of the Dutch quality. Since I have been here longer, I had a minor operation through an ENT doctor, which should help reduce colds and bronchitis, which will also benefit my asthma. The first check after the operation was that it was recovering well. Hopefully the last check next month. My lung capacity was good, for an asthma patient, so that was good to know.

I also got an inflammation under the root of my molar, which could be operated under very hygienic conditions. Unfortunately, the operation was not successful and the tooth has to be removed this month.

I have now received my first vaccination. Now I have to wait for the second one and then I can plan my flight back.

Maintaining relationships in the Philippines

I may be physically in the Netherlands, but friendships continue of course. Especially in this time of pandemic. So many people who got sick. I keep in touch with them via Facebook Messenger. I was even able to experience a vigil online.



Praise

- Thanks for receiving my first vaccination.
- Thanks for spending time with family, friends and congregation.
- Thanks for online training courses and webinars.
- Thanks for the temporary car when mine broke down.

Prayer

- Preparations for the Langham online training.
- Dealing with grief in the many families where people have died due to COVID or other reasons. All intensive care beds are currently occupied again!
- Reopening of the borders in the Philippines after the stop until the end of April. Safe return flight after second vaccination



Online training

The pandemic made it special that national borders were suddenly less important. With Langham preaching ladies, we meet monthly. The ladies in South America get up in the morning at 5:00 am and the ladies in New Zealand are still awake at 2:00 am! Furthermore, we are in the process of setting up a Langham sermon training New Testament online and a Theological Distance Education training for all of Asia has just been completed. Below a small photo impression of the preparatory work.



Meanwhile on Samar...

The restrictions are still very strict on Samar. Because there is actually no good hospital on the entire island, the local authorities are very careful and therefore very strict.

A student worker must apply for a health pass every time she needs to have materials copied for the Bible study because the photocopier is on the other side of a border from where she lives.

The work will continue in the meantime. The workers of the Church visit people's homes, and house churches also continue. Sometimes with an SMS with a Bible text, which they then talk about together. But this week they got to reunite in a small group ... and what's the first thing they did?

Langham sermon club was restarted. They had missed studying the Bible together.



In the Philippines, Easter is mainly the festival of the week of suffering. The Statues of the Virgin Mary are covered with cloths so that she does not have to see the suffering of Jesus. Silent Saturday is literally silent, because no one dares to take to the streets, because Jesus is dead. On Easter morning at 4 a.m. the cloths are removed and with a lot of noise a procession is held through the village to let everyone know that Jesus is alive!



zending verbindt

News from the TFC

Iljo is working with the TFC to return to the Philippines.

But we also need you! In addition to support in compassion and prayer, a healthy financial basis is absolutely necessary to make Iljo's deployment possible.

One-time donations are (of course) welcome. But for a healthy financial basis, we would like to ask you to make a firm commitment for a longer period of time. We prefer a monthly contribution. This gives a good spread of income and it may be easier to miss a small amount per month than a larger amount annually.

Colofon

The GZB and the OMF are working together to make the sending out of Iljo de Keijzer possible. For address changes and other information, please contact the GZB:
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