

“The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.”

Zep 3,17



Dear family and friends,

Health is a great good and a Blessing from our Father! We all realize this all the more after a year of corona pandemic. Almost everyone knows someone in his or her family or circle of friends who is or has been infected with it. We have had an thrilling quarter in terms of health. And not just because of corona.

Family

Around Christmas time, one of our daughters got corona and also one of her daughters. Fortunately, the symptoms were relatively mild. Our granddaughter was healed quite quickly, our daughter still suffers from fatigue and a limited sense of smell. Around the same time, her husband (our son-in-law) was undergoing investigations for an enlarged thyroid gland. He was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin in early January. In addition, his father died in the same period from the effects of corona. Our son-in-law is currently undergoing six chemotherapy treatments that are scheduled to be completed by mid-May. It is a difficult period for the whole family, but also for us as parents. It is difficult to see how this family is suffering. And then in January it turned out that this is not the only case of cancer in our family...

Amo

At the beginning of January I consulted the doctor after I found blood in my stool. A week later I was there again, because I did not trust it. The following week I went to the hospital in Drachten for a sigmoidoscopy examination; an examination in the last part of the intestine. During this survey a tumor was discovered in the last part of the intestine.

It is said to you by the gastro-enterologist in three or four sentences. At that moment your life comes to a standstill. **“So now it's your turn, and not always the other ...”**, flashes through my mind.

The next day the medical mill started to turn: an intake with the gastro-enterologist, blood test (the first of many times) and at the end of the day the first CT scan. Two days later one MRI scan and the day after a meeting with the gastro-enterologist with the results of the examination and review of the treatment plan. In these days of uncertainty, all kinds of scenarios went through our minds continuously. Scenarios that kept us awake. We were very emotional and every message of encouragement from others touched us deeply. Not infrequently, we received encouragement from a prayer, which "anointed" exactly where it was needed. We noticed again that Father always stays close and knows what we need. We have experienced a deep peace in all of this that is beyond all thoughts and emotions.

The gastro-enterologist was able to inform us that no metastases had been found. This message had to drop...

Recently I have undergone a complete intestinal examination, followed by radiation for one week, in order to shrink the tumor. Then I was operated on where the part of the rectum where the tumor was located was removed. This is on the day of two months after I first found blood in my stool. During the operation it was examined whether a temporary stoma would be necessary.

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Newsletter

AMOMARTHA & DRAIJER IN BUTTENPOST

"It is our desire to connect with those who are looking for answers to their life questions and for whom the threshold to enter a church building is too high"

The operation is now more than seven weeks behind us. The operation was successful. A stoma was not necessary. The tissue examination was also good: both the cutting edges and the lymph nodes that were included were clean. I am recovering well, although I am not the old one yet.

For the next five years I received a check-up schedule. Prior to each check, there will be tension and uncertainty about the result again. However it turns out, I am grateful and blessed because He will not leave my side!

During the research period, I woke up one morning to the song "[Singing Over Us](#)" by KXC. It is a song based on Zephaniah 3:17. And indeed, without knowing how it will all turn out in the near future, we experience that the Lord God lives very close to us.

Looking back on the past months, gratitude reigns supreme. It feels like King Hezekiah must have felt and we realize that we are living a time of grace. Actually, that has always been the case, but now you are being confronted with the facts. Since that first bad

news announcement, my and Martha's life has been turned upside down and my worldview has been tilted. Then I can only cling to One: God the Father, His promises and Jesus who continues to walk next to me. In the first weeks of research I experienced a special closeness to God. Guided by His Spirit, He brought people and situations on my path through which He fulfilled His promises to me. It may sound crazy, but that's why I would never had to want to miss this period. As concrete as He was near!

Mission

In recent months, we have not been able to work much on our mission. We have tried to keep contacts with the participants of the Open House alive. Amo has stopped his payed job at Present and is now receiving a small pre-pension. This allows us to continue our missionary activities in the hope that the corona pandemic soon is over.

When we look back on the past six months, we can repeat what we wrote last time: We are and remain amazed about our Father. How richly He blesses

Prayer and thanks points:

- We have experienced the closeness of God and His Spirit very strongly in recent months. Thank Him for His faithfulness and promises!
- Thank God for all those activities that could continue despite the crisis. Pray that the meetings that are now suspended may resume quickly and that the "damage" will be limited.
- Pray for the healing and protection of our son-in-law and his family. That he can continue the chemotherapy and that they can have a curative effect.
- Thank God for providing adequate resources and pray that we can continue the missionary work.

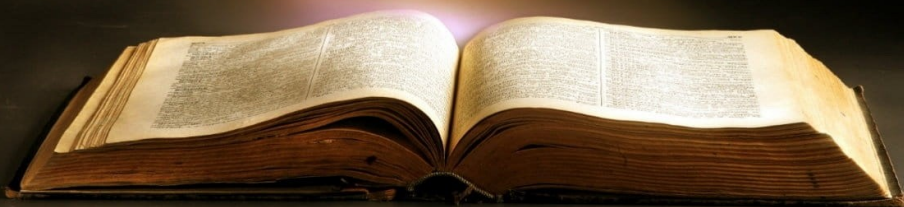
us, despite a situation we thought impossible a year ago. Yet He always provides everything we need, both spiritually and materially.

What a great God He is!

Amo en Martha

**Even when I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will not be afraid,
for You are close beside me**

Psalms 23,4



COLOFON

Amo and Martha Draijer, founders of Butterfly, focus on discipleship and church planting in the Buitenpost area of the Dutch province of Friesland.

Amo and Martha are financially dependent on gifts. You can support them by making a donation to the bankaccount of Stichting ECM-Nederland. IBAN: NL02 INGB 0000254997 (BIC/SWIFT: INGBNL2A) citing "Fund Butterfly"

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