

## Prayer letter December 2011

*Faithful is he that calleth you, who will also do it. (1 Thess. 5:24)*

Apple pie, pea soup, syrup waffles, 'pepernoten', cheese cubes .... some of the typical Dutch dishes that filled our table. We, as 'the Dutch' have tried to show our best on 'International Night'. Even Saint Nicolas was present (not Santa Claus). Our Saint, despite being poorly dressed, got the internationals on his hand in a poem in which the differences between Dutch and English were greatly exaggerated. It was without doubt one of the best evenings at All Nations. Especially for a gourmet as Mark there was much to enjoy. There was not only a Dutch table, no, also a Chinese, African, Swiss, Turkish and much, much more. Of course we were allowed to try something from every table. It's clear that many are very proud of their nationality. After tasting the delicious food we enjoyed the entertainment. Again, a lot of energy was put into the presentation of the various national peculiarities.

### Children



David being a naughty boy...

followed her closely. She begins to mix English with Dutch, while Celeste can keep it well separated. David crawls around fast, and can even be quite naughty. We have to keep a close eye on him. Once, he managed to get the box of milk powder in his hands. On the photo you can see the results...

### Prayer requests:

- Give thanks that we both have accomplished the study in England
- We are grateful that we managed to arrange the necessary visa for Thailand
- Thank for the children, who learn so quickly English
- Thank for the good time we had in the Netherlands
- Pray for energy for the culture study
- Pray for sufficient financial support
- Pray for the children in Thailand

The children have adapted easily. Every morning they were welcomed in the nursery, where they enjoyed going to. Playing with water and sand, painting, baking (and then eating), playing outside, learning songs and rhymes, dressing ... everything was possible. The bedroom has been packed with all kinds of crafts. Of course there was also a dolls room and a bookroom, and so on. David had a great time at the baby department. He also made 'crafts' and played nice with all kinds of toys. He found it very fun to play with other babies. In his group were almost only boys, in the group of the girls were just girls. There were even two Dutch peers. In no time the girls were making themselves understood in English. From the start, Celeste didn't hesitate to start a conversation with anyone and soon knew most of the students. Irene

## Study



Enjoying one of the many beautiful days

At All Nations we did the En Route Course. In our class were 24 students who, after graduation, will go in many directions to spread the Good News in different ways (church planting, teaching, providing medical assistance, etc.). For ten weeks we had fellowship together. It were good weeks, spread over several modules such as 'Who am I?', 'culture and religion', 'cross-cultural integration' and 'integral mission'. A good

learning moment was simulation day. A day when many unpleasant events that may actually occur in foreign countries have been acted out. Exciting, scary, exhausting and fun ... It was a good experience! Interesting to see how everyone reacts differently to certain events. The study was less intensive than in Switzerland and the pressure was less. A well-thought choice of the institute, so the students are in relative peace for the coming period.

## The Netherlands and Thailand

We look gratefully back on a wonderful commission service and a good fare-well of our loved ones. It was a busy period: we arranged all kinds of things for the trip, went to see as much people as possible, packed and had our fare-well parties... Before we realized, we sat in the plane heading to Thailand. Now we take a short break before we arrive the 24rd of December in Isaan, where we will live in a house of a colleague and his family. This family is on home leave in the Netherlands and during this period, we can live in their house and use their car. A great opportunity to get acquainted already with the team and the work area, and to do cultural studies. We are grateful for this opportunity. So, we'll celebrate our first Thai Christmas soon!



Mark and Anne-Marie at the Dutch table on the International night.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Blessed 2012,

Sincerely,

Mark, Anne-Marie, Celeste, Irene and David

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