

The world

On our doorstep

NEWSLETTER FROM HANS AND CAROLIEN EUSER, NUMBER 30, JUNE 2021

DIAGNOSIS IN 2 LETTERS

DEAR PEOPLE,

How two letters can completely turn your life upside down! Carolien has always had physical symptoms, but we would blame it on stress or high sensitivity. Doctors gave diagnoses and sometimes prescribed medication. But they never dug deeper.

A few weeks ago it was different. Carolien felt so strange in her head that we went to a weekend doctor on duty. He decided it probably had to do with the startup of BLEND: "You need rest." So we went on holiday for a few days.

During our first stop with the camper, Carolien noticed her leg was wobbly. She could not walk for long at all. We called the replacing practitioner, who was the first to look at her entire file. "Your mother and sister have MS, your neck problems a few years ago were explained as being TOS and you have reduced muscular strength. I want you to come by right away."

That is how we ended up at the emergency room, they took an MRI scan of the head and within no time we knew things were badly wrong. The brain scan (on June 1st) showed white spots. "Those are old inflammations. For a long time, you have been affected by something undefined. There also is active inflammation. I am curious what we will find in your spine. There will be a next scan on June 8. But this is clear already: you have MS."



If only we didn't know what that was ... But Caroline's mother and sister both are in a wheelchair – with all that entails. The disease not only causes physical complaints but also affects cognitive abilities such as concentration and memory.

This turns our world upside down, of course. This is drastic news. It also provides confirmation and explanation. We and those around us now understand better where the constant fatigue comes from. It is easier to set limits when you know it is MS. And now treatment can be started, which will not lead to healing – unless God works a miracle – but it does slow down the disease and reduces it.

REACTIONS? YES, PLEASE

Our support group (ABC) is happy to talk to you. Contact person is Heleen Stuivenberg, abc@hansencarolien.nl, 06-45061353

ABC

Give a gift? Thank you!

Thanks to your support the national and local mission can continue.

Dutch bank account number: NL36 INGB 0008 9859 37,
Name: Stichting Intercultural Church Plants (a non-profit),
Designation: 'project Rotterdam'.

Petra de Bruijn, treasurer



WOULD YOU PRAY WITH US?

Rhodé had us listen to a beautiful song, in two languages, by Evan Craft, which encourages us, [Be alright](#).

*There's a name that can silence every fear
There's a love that embraces
The heartache, the pain, and the tears
Through my faith and my doubting
I know one thing for sure
His word is unfailing
His promise secure*

As a family, we will have to learn to handle this, but we cannot do so on our own. As a line from another song we heard, [Good to me](#) by Rhett Walker:

*I will look this storm in the eye,
I won't fear for you're on my side.*

"That is my prayer", Carolien says, "that God gives me so much grace that I can handle it, knowing He is on my side. I want to trust that the way God has me walk, is good for me. I want to choose not to be swept away by sorrow. When it hits me, I call upon Jesus for help. Psalm 84 speaks about the valley of Baca where God is a place of springs for the sojourners. I try to continually draw from that."

Pray for us, for grace, strength, and trust. That this will not diminish our testimony, but rather strengthen it. We are vulnerable people, that is clear. God, however, is a source of peace and joy, also in the midst of grief. We want to know Him, to serve and love Him, not just for ourselves but also with the neighborhood we live in, the beautiful and broken people around us.

AND IN THE MEANTIME ...

A few weeks ago we started an Alpha course in BLEND. Leander and Hans are leading it, hairdresser Jocelyn and neighbor girl Laura are helping, and five participants signed up.

One of them asked for a Bible and immediately started reading in it. Such hunger for the Word of God! And such openness in this group of people, neither of whom have a Christian background.

A few days ago somebody came to the shop to donate shoes. She shared her life has changed since BLEND opened its doors. How special! Especially because she also likes to participate in the Alpha.

God is at work. He brings people of all kinds of cultures and ages together. Sometimes He uses us in this, but He is not depending on it. What a relief: God is building his own Kingdom, right through all kinds of opposition and impossibilities. Soli Deo gloria!

