

The Shelter Youth Hostel Ministry NEWSLETTER

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Saturday,
October 8th
OPEN DAY in the
Shelter City

DEAR FRIENDS

I would like to start this newsletter by saying THANK YOU FRIENDS. Thank you for praying for our ministry and for coming to Amsterdam and helping us out during summer time. Coralien, Paul, Chistina C., Christian, the lovely people from the Byron Bay Australia YWAM team and so many more – great that you were here. Financially seen we did not have such a great summer but spiritually we were blessed richly!

Do you remember when prayer was asked for Julian's baptism? In this newsletter you can read how Hans, one of the staff members remembers Julian's start with God. Furthermore, Ewout, one of the Jordan managers shares one of his' working days with you, you'll also receive some more information about the Backpackers Ministry Conference in November. Futhermore we ask your attention for some changes in the conditions for stafmembers.

Finally you are warmly invited to our open house! Some of you know it already, soon we have an Open day in the Shelter City on october 18th. Come by and say hello if you are in the area, bring friends or people that might be interested in the Youth Hostel ministry. Between 11 a.m. And 4 p.m. There will be guided tours through the hostel, lectures and a movie about the ministry. You will also have the opportunity to talk with current staff members and managers.

JUNE 4TH 2008

by Hans Knol, staffmember Shelter City

June 4th 2008: The day God came up with His biggest surprise for me this year so far. A new lesson to learn, an amazing moment, a miracle. But lets rewind a bit because that 4th of June did not evolve around me!

The story about the 35-year-old Australian Julian Luka begins about 10 days before June 4th. A successful entrepreneur and former professional goaly of Turkish football club Besiktas. At the time when we got to know him, we had no clue he was famous. Julian walked through the door as a guest of the Shelter as so many people do. Julian became friends with us, as so many others do as well! He was easy to befriend, a hard worker and always cheerful. You could also tell that Julian knew what he was talking about - he knew life.

Julian started to join film discussions, he talked to us about life and joined Bible discussion. And while he was taking part on his first Bible discussion Julian and I met. Our Bible study was about prayer. And we explored how cool it is to be able to talk to our God in an intimate way. Julian was quiet but listened carefully. At the end of our bible study we prayed together, brought our vision before God, we praised His name and entrusted our needs to Him, professing faith in Him to guide us in our personal life's.

At the end our study Julian came up to me and asked me - probably since I was leading that study - if I could teach him more about the God we were talking about and praying to. Well duh.. Of course I could! I suggested we do the Alpha course together, starting the next day! At that time Julian started working as a cleaner so that he could spent more time getting to know God, learning with us about God and



getting to know us as well. Alpha's third lesson was planned on June 4th. I had it all planned out: At the end I would ask Julian if he wanted to give his life to Jesus. I was excited because I had never ever asked someone that question before and I made sure I was ready for it!

But God had it planned differently! After the third lesson Julian looked at me and said something like "...so... I want to do that, but how does that actually work, giving my life to Jesus...?" I just sat there, perplexed and realizing that turning hearts to Christ is really not our job. God does it!

Julian gave his life to Jesus that afternoon because God had prepared his heart. God had guided Julian his life and had sent people in Julian his life, to share the right things with Julian at the right time. God had it all planned out!



Julian and I completed Alpha together and it was an amazing time. He asked me to do his baptism. Even during his baptism I realized how big the 4th of June lesson had been to me. To baptize someone is truly special, don't get me wrong! But during the baptism I realized again all the bible studies, conversations, wisely placed remarks were building stones that helped Julian to surrender his life to Jesus!

From that day on, I treated every conversation and every day at the Shelter as equal and important as that day of Julian his conversion and baptism. God does not ask us to convert people. God asks us to share what we have received in Jesus' death! Our testimonies - how small or big they are - are building stones for God to prepare people's hearts!

MANAGER IN THE SHELTER JORDAN - JUST ONE DAY

by Ewout de Vries, manager Shelter Jordan

5.45 "*The UN are trying to find a solution for the refugees from Afghanistan...*" is the first thing I hear in the morning. Being very silent, not waking up the boys, I walked carefully down on our creaking stairs. Waking up, preparing lunch, having time with the Lord, I stepped into the car an hour later. The beautiful red sky, sun coming up, small clouds and mist, I turned on my radio to listen to the three minute news, flying low over the highway to Amsterdam. My loyal bike brings me to the Shelter Jordan.

7.45 The Bible is opened and read with the seven of us gathered together and then we *prayed* (a verse of 1Cor 3). After hearing the nightman stories about conversations, drunk guests and quiet moments, the two café staff start cooking pancakes, the two reception staff (one trainee and one trainer) go to reception and two visiting dutch girls talk about why they wanted to join the prayer time. They stay as guests and are so enthusiastic about what Shelter does they wanted to support with prayer (and maybe becoming staff??? who knows).

The more than hundred euro counting difference keeps me busy for an hour then I heard: "*Ewout, here's someone at reception who calls himself Ewout too!*" Turns out to be a Dutch guy who lives nearby and wants to sell his boat to guests that may be interested. After a while we agree, and a sign will be made for the reception.

9.45 Together with the *cleaner supervisor* we pray for the shift, for the cleaners and a word of knowledge is shared (the topic was about the sick being healed; they all got sick the next day). Then, while the cleaners were meeting for this "cleaners time" (hearing the bible being explained) the reception got a break, as I covered for the receptionist I checked in 5 guests.

11.00 "*Are staff not getting paid for working here?*" a German group leader responds with amazement that the staff work here, even up to a year, just because of their relationship with God.

11.45 About every one-and-a-half hour I walk to the café and take a cup of *coffee*

(like a real Dutchie), tea, or water, talking here and there as I go. Before the next shift starts my hope is that I will be finished with the new Evacuation Plan in order to meet the fire brigades regulations, but then the printer at reception just stopped working. What now? Well, thanks to one of our 'problem-solving' protocols, I am able to fix the reception printer in no time and finish the Evacuation Plan.

13.00 Sitting in the Bible Discussion Room with the afternoon café staff and receptionist, we start the shift with prayer. We pray for the cleaners, the guests and for the staff team, which is experiencing a high turnover during the next couple of weeks. Then it is LUNCH time, this means hanging out in the café, enjoying each others company and filling our bellies.

14.00 Meetings, paperwork, computer work or whatever, does not happen this afternoon. After lunch a guest starts a conversation about finding a room and job in Amsterdam and we end up talking about the search for answers, about Jesus and the truth. Wow, this is really one of the things which inspired me to come to the Shelter.

It's always fun and good when the next manager comes in, which can be around 2 or 4 pm. We talk about what happened, what we need to know and need to take action about...and we pray. Leaving with a peaceful heart I take the same way back home and enjoy dinner with my family. It's an amazing ministry, always finding the balance between doing the hostel work and directly interacting with people to participate in the proclaiming ministry. This day is good.

INTERNATIONAL BACKPACKERS MINISTRY FORUM

by Jan de Visser, manager Shelter City

The Shelter is organizing the first international backpackers conference from November 17th-20th 2008. With this newsletter you receive the official flyer. All Christian organizations or individuals working with backpacker or tourists are invited. Organizations have different strategies of reaching out and showing something of the love of Christ. We want to get to know each other, inspire and learn from each other.

Are the fields ready for harvest or is this generation just not open for the gospel anymore? We hope in this conference to find out together what the trends are in the traveler communities. Which strategies are working, which are not working? How can we give follow up to people who are interested in the message of Jesus Christ?

How can we train our hostel workers in better ways? What are the basic ingredients you need?

Another big area is the networking, there are many people interested in starting Christian hostels but only a few are succeeding. Some existing places have difficulties in finding new staff members or the right tools. We need to look what we can do to help one another.

If you are interested to join please sign up (info see flyer).

We look forward to meet you here in Amsterdam.

NEW STAFF CONDITIONS

We value your help in finding new staff workers for the Shelters because those that have worked here have the best ability to share what it means to be a part of this ministry. Thank you for all your support in promoting this Youth Hostel Ministry! From December on there will be some changes in the conditions for new staff members. This changes are already stated on the website, because you talk with people it is important that you know about it as well. To meet the regulations of the Dutch law we have to change some conditions for becoming staff member in the Shelter Youth Hostel.

During your time of service in the YHM, we *will* provide you with:

- Accommodation free of costs
- Training (Ministry Training Program) free of costs
- Fee for the residence permit (430 Euro) if applicable

You will have to provide and pay for:

- Travel to Amsterdam and back
- 60 Euro per month
- Medical insurance

Monthly charge: While accommodation at the Community House is provided free of costs, there will be a monthly charge of 60 Euro for food. We'd encourage you to raise some support from your church or friends to pay for this.

Medical insurance: It is required that you have medical insurance for the period that you will be serving at the Shelter. This needs to cover medical (emergency) costs of hospitals, doctors, dentist, etc in the Netherlands. You will need to provide for this on your own.

If you have question about the changes please do not hesitate to mail them to us, personnel@youthhostelministry.org

FINANCES

This summer we had way less guests in the Hostel than the year before. Reasons for this fact are probably: the expensive Euro, some well known museums that are closed for renovation and the generally low economy. As it looks we will have a loss at the end of this year. Besides that, we became in 2006 a self supporting association and we no longer get general gifts from the Dutch head organisation „Tot Heil des Volks.“

If you want to support us financially (next to your prayers!) please write down that the gift is for the „Youth Hostel Ministry“. With your gift you support the costs for staff members and volunteers that we make as the Shelter fund.

You can also support directly one of the hostels, please specify: „The Shelter City“ or „The Shelter Jordan“

Both hostels have to cover on their own the costs they make for evangelisation. Hostel nights, Bibles, tracts are important ways to reach people. And both hostels need the money to keep doing this. You find the bank details at the end of this newsletter.

Thank you very much!

NAMES & NEWS or in this edition better known as the NIGHTMAN NEWS

Many of you probably remember his delicious Saturday morning breakfasts that sometimes last the whole day... **Harald Davidse** worked 8 years as nightman and 2 years as staff member in the Shelter Jordan. After 10 years he leaves the Shelters. From 1st october on he will work as manager in the hostel Oasis Trails in Spain. Harald we will miss you! Thank you so much for all you did in the Shelter. May God bless you richly.

Sam Faber a former staff member will take over Harald's position. Sam, welcome, again, to the team!

Another hard worker who supported the Shelter for many years will leave: **Maarten van Slooten**.

He was staff member, nightman and handyman for many years. Maarten, thank you so much for all your support. We are glad, that you will stay in the town and that

you still come around from time to time. The best wishes for your new job and many blessing for your life.

Peter de Graaf, nightman in the Shelter City got engaged to his girlfriend in Germany. Herzlichen Glückwunsch!

PRAYER POINTS

Give thanks that so many people helped us out this summer!!!

Give thanks that many cleaners and organisation guests are interested in getting to know more about Jesus. Many joined an Alpha course or read the Bible together with somebody from the hostel staff.

Pray for long term staff members. We are really looking for staff members who can commit three or more months to the Youth Hostel Ministry esp. from December on; we still have many open places.

Pray for new staff members. We will start an international campaign to recruit more volunteer workers. Ideas from you are very welcome! Mail them to susanne@city.shelter.nl

Pray for the open day on October 18th

Pray for the Backpackers conference that it will inspire and motivate Christians to invest in the Backpackers Ministry worldwide and be a witness of the works of Jesus Christ in this world.

Pray for Gods blessing on the future ways of our ex-workers Maarten en Harald

Pray for the financial situation of the Shelters that despite the lower income this year, we can cover all the costs.

Pray for the current staff team, for the managers, the house parents, for everybody who works in the Ministry of both hostels that we can in all situations put God in the first place. Pray that he might give us the unity, the strength, the health and the wisdom we need to serve him and that the Shelters can be a blessing for many guests.

Pray for growth in faith and the desire in our hearts to reach out to people

The Shelter Youth Hostel Ministry is a Christian ministry to travelers. In the centre of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, we run two Christian hostels: Shelter City and Shelter Jordan. Each year, we provide accommodation to 40,000 travelers from all over the world. Our desire is to be a blessing to them and to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with these travelers. The ministry is part of the association Tot Heil des Volks, a non-denominational mission organization registered in Amsterdam. Internet: www.youthhostelministry.org

Donations. The work of The Shelter Youth Hostel Ministry would not be able to continue without financial support. If you want to help us with a gift you are very welcome: 541914057 t.n.v. Stichting Tot Heil Des Volks, Amsterdam International: IBAN: NL75ABNA0541914057, BIC code: ABNANL2A

This Newsletter can also be found at www.youthhostelministry.org

If you don't want to receive this newsletter anymore, please reply and write "take me of the mailing list" in the subject.