

The Shelter Youth Hostel Ministry NEWSLETTER

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NEW STAFF NEEDED FROM MAY ON!

For info see website:
www.youthhostelministry.org

DEAR FRIENDS

The last newsletter was quite a while ago and it is high time to let you hear something from our ministry again. Many things happened in the last months. In February we had three great days of Shelter reunion. Shortly after the Shelter Jordan officially re-opened after four months of renovation. Meanwhile both hostels welcomed many guests and we thankfully saw God at work in many ways. We had many great experiences, which we want to share with you in this newsletter. Thank you for your support and prayers!

We also kindly ask for your help: for the coming months we are still looking for new long term staff members (from May on) and short term staff members for the summer months (mainly for August). Tell people who might be interested and help to make our mission possible. Or maybe you want to help out yourself? Be welcome!

SHELTER REUNION

How many balloons could you fill with memories when you think back to your time in the Shelter? The Jerusalem church in Amsterdam was full of colorful balloons when Rebekka, an ex-staff member, shared one of her stories from her Shelter time. From 26-28 February we welcomed



many former staff members from 10 different countries back here in Amsterdam. Three days of meeting old and new friends, sharing how God went on with each person after the Shelter time past. From the very beginning of the seventies till now we thankfully see how God blessed the Shelters with talented faithful disciples of Jesus Christ again and again.

Each hostel had its own reunion day with an Open Mic night, a presentation in our living community and of course lots of time to talk together and share photos. For the evening church service on Wednesday about 20 former staff member spontaneously formed a Shelter Reunion Choir and presented with great enthusiasm some Gospel songs.

Martin Penning, a former staff member and manager of the Shelter City is now pastor of a church in Amsterdam. In his preaching he let us see how God through Nehemiah not only rebuilt a city wall but also created a shelter for his people where holiness and faith could grow. May the Shelters in Amsterdam be such a place as well, a God protected place of holiness from where a bright light can shine into this world.



JORDAN OPENING

13th of march was the official opening of the renewed Shelter Jordan. In attendance were business partners, the local press and tourist associations. The kitchen has been renovated and big dorms changed to comfortable small rooms. The Shelter Jordan is ready again to welcome tourists from all over the world. May it be a blessing for many travelers. You are warmly invited to take a look!



Francien van Petegem: "What made this opening special to me is when the official moment of opening arrived. There was a big sheet covering the reception desk. There were a lot of people from the touristy world of Amsterdam gathered to see how the reception was being revealed by the head of the tourist board of Amsterdam. After this Jacob took the chance to tell everyone there about the wise man building his house on the Rock which is Jesus! Let's pray that

these people will continue to think about this and get to know the Lord Jesus."

FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT A MATTER OF TALK BUT OF POWER. (1 Cor. 4:20)

by Peter de Graaf

The Shelter City is a challenging place for people who are a little bit open for Gods message of love and grace. That Jesus was nailed to the hard cross is known to most of us. Sometimes we even burst out of joy because of that. The fact that our sins are forgiven and that we are able to have a great relationship with our Father isn't daily bread for a lot of people. Something that is even less known amongst seekers AND Christians (!), is the fact that Jesus shows his Kingdom on earth in the following way.

One night, here at the reception a guy came and told –with big alcohol smell- that he had finished a bible school. A fabulous honest guy to talk with and despite (?) his problem –who is without problems?- he was not rejected by Jesus. Probably even BECAUSE of his problem the Lord gave him extra in his eyesight. During the conversation it came to the subject that he had a major back problem. Down his spine three disks and something in between were hurting major. He said that the MRI-scan showed out the following: 4 mm to the left, 3 mm to the right and 2 mm to the left again. Surgery was needed definitely. And as a bonus, the thing in between there stuck out 7 mm. In contemporary English they would call that a major hernia I think. The decision to pray for healing was because of the fact that Jesus was raised from the dead and lives in EVERY believer by His Spirit. And indeed, during the prayer we both literally felt the disks moving back to their right place! 10 minutes long we were standing there with our eyes wide open, looking to the “that-is-impossible”- miracle. So I just gave him a “Shelter T-shirt”, I just found that nice. But the miracle continued: the Lord restored his leg length as well, and therefore he was walking “all in balance” again.

The next day he told that he could do kickboxing again “as if I have the body of a young lad”. Even the tougher exercises were no problem to him anymore. And on the construction yard he immediately started testifying “because it REALLY happened”. “A man at the Shelter prayed for my back, and immediately it got healed, after years of pain!”. This guy was completely shocked “because its just impossible”. He knew God existed, but that Jesus could come THAT close no one ever told him.

Man, its great working here at the Shelter. A place in the middle of the red-light district, where the Holy Spirit is at work in the believers. I just think its awesome to see Gods character in these miracles. He must have been smiling when we both were completely excited! God is good.

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES?

by Adinda de Jong

Last week I was challenged by a verse from 1 Timothy. It says in chapter 1 verse 17; 'Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment'.

I asked God to give me an opportunity to share with at least one guest how important it is to put our hope in God and not in wealth. A simple prayer which I think was answered tonight...When I came into the café I saw around 15 people hanging out in different small groups, but one man was sitting on his own. I had the desire to talk with him, so I went up to him. We came into a nice conversation and after 5 minutes he told me that he just lost his job (as a financial manager in some kind of big company in New York) and that he decided to go away for a weekend to the Netherlands. He knew the Shelter because he has been here a couple of times before. He had a good job, worked many hours, earned a lot of money, but the company decided that some people needed to find another job because of the financial situation.

Since then he realised that he worked a lot and because of that has a lot of money, but that it didn't give him where he longed for. He doesn't have a wife or kids... He told me that his girlfriend broke up with him more than a year ago and that he still wonders why... He is wondering, wondering why she broke up with him, what he did wrong, or if he doesn't look good enough or maybe she met another man ... I just listened. In the end he asked me if I wanted to become a minister or something... I needed to laugh and asked him why. "because you listen and ask the right questions" he answered, and soon after that he left.

From the first moment I met him I wanted to talk about hope. And guess what? I didn't do it! Again, an opportunity I didn't use! I wonder how many more times this is going to happen? Since the moment he walked away I realised I missed the opportunity that God gave me...

The funny thing is that after 20 minutes, while I was thinking and praying about this conversation, while I was on my way home in the train, I met a homeless guy. I came into another good conversation and even though he didn't have any wealth he could put his hope in, I could share about the hope we have in Christ. I'm thankful, happy, encouraged and at the same time a bit sad, how often do we not use the opportunities that God gives us to reach out and share about the hope we found...

NAMES & NEWS

We are happy that Johanna Oudman, coordinator of the ministry school program, is back. She gave in December birth to two beautiful little children named Bonne and Caspian.

Francien van Petegem who greatly took over from Johanna during her absence will stay in the youth hostel ministry and support the Shelter Jordan team as part time supervisor.

PRAYER POINTS

Give thanks for so many opportunities to see God at work in the Shelters

Give thanks for a great reunion in February

Give thanks that the renovation of the Jordan could be finished in time and that the hostel runs well after the re-opening

Pray for more staff members (especially long term staff members) in the coming months

Pray for our staff team. For unity and friendship, health and strength. The renovation of the Jordan, a new booking system we started working with and a shortage of staff members ask a lot extra energy and participation from everybody.

Pray for growth in faith and desire to serve God wholeheartedly, as well as for a desire to meet guests and share Christ.

Pray for the ministry in the hostels. That guests will see the love of Christ made visible, will feel comfortable to ask questions and share things about their own life, will be interested in the testimonies of the workers. Above all, that God will speak to their hearts.

Pray for the management team, for health, wisdom and compassion.

Pray for the outreach activities that will take place in both hostels with Ascension day and Pentecost

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. Help support this ministry! Read more about **easy online donations** at www.youthhostelministry.org

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