

The Shelter Youth Hostel Ministry NEWSLETTER

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In this issue:

- Testimony
- Breakfast ministry
- Staff day
- Backpacker Forum
- Names & News
- Prayer points
- Contact details

Who can help us
during July and August?

For info see website:
www.youthhostelministry.org

DEAR FRIENDS

'It is fasting & prayer, to much is happening, I am overwhelmed' wrote Jan de Visser, one of the managers enthusiastic in an email lately. And it is true, in the last weeks we have met so many people hungry for Gods word, interested in the Gospel, coming to faith, becoming disciples here in the hostels in Amsterdam. Amazed by what God can do, we thankfully praise Him and pray that he will keep working in the hearts of our guests and cleaners and will keep using the Shelters and their staff. In this newsletter we want to share some experiences with you. You'll also read about new ideas to reach out to our guests.

At the end of May a lot of staff members finished their time in the Shelter. Thanks a lot to you all, you did great work here and we are glad we could get to know you! Now already a whole group of new people have arrived to help us in the summermonths. Currently we have staff members from Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Holland, Hong Kong and The United States here in our hostels. Great people who want to serve with their heart, their gifts and talents in the Backpackers Ministry. But we are not complete yet. In both teams we are still missing people for this summer. We really face a gap in August! So please help us find volunteer workers for the coming months. Do not hesitate to mail if you have questions or go to the website www.youthhostelministry.org for more information and application forms.

Thank you for your support, prayers and gifts. We feel very much encouraged by our big Shelter family.

Enjoy reading this newsletter.

WORTHY TO BE PRAISED!

by Jakob Maccabee (staffmember Shelter City)

Let me encourage you with all that is happening in our Shelters. Our staff are stepping up their game. It is amazing to see how one community can deny themselves and set themselves apart for the Lord.

Our own devotion is strengthening all of us and our own convictions in our prayers our being met and seeing how much we are coming together in prayer every night every day is such a blessing for the whole team.

God we cry out to You!

YOU ARE WORTHY!

Worthy to be praised!

continue to pour out Your Spirit on us

and encourage us to not be anything but humble

before your thrown so in our prayer we see answers:

Our brother Klaus who is an awesome young man from Germany attended my Bible discussion. Tonn and I read through the top 3 reasons why we question Jesus. We got to the topic of grace and you could see this was a whole new thing for this man. So Klaus asked how he could love Jesus and told us how he wanted Jesus to live inside him. Blown away at this I offered to pray that his convictions were true and he was sure he wanted to start this journey.

We prayed.

I grabbed Michael, a German staffmember, to explain the awesomeness of the Lord and His water that never let's us thirst again.

I sat down next to Michael and Klaus, not understanding a word they were saying, except 'Vater'. And then I saw the Truth flow in Klaus, how he saw his good deeds were not enough but how Jesus would wipe all our transgressions away.

I left them and we prayed as whole community. Michael, Willy, Sebastian and many others discipled him in the Word and watched him make a commitment to Jesus. Keep Klaus in prayer please.

We praise God for what he is doing in the life of our cleaners: Gaith started reading the bible, Steve and Marcus are searching for the truth (please pray that Jesus can break down the strongholds in them), Julian who accepted Jesus in his life and just finished the Alpha Course with a staff member, and our new cleaner Reda how he wants to search Scripture and how attentive he is in Bible discussion.

Pray that he would have break the lies and confusion the enemy brings and that Reda would surrender all for our Lord.

Rejoice with us! I have read in Samuel that when the Philistines brought the ark back, God struck down 70 people for not rejoicing. God is worthy to be praised. He wants us to rejoice.

Be blessed. How can we pray for you?

Brother Jakob

BREAKFAST WITH JESUS - THE BEST START OF THE DAY

by Jaco Loenen (manager Shelter Jordan)

The Shelters organize a lot of activities: hostel nights, travellers nights, Bible discussions, and city walks. These activities are good, but still we are not satisfied. We see so many guests coming in, having their breakfast, and leaving to spend the whole day in the city. This is not strange. If I stayed a weekend in Barcelona, I would go to the Ramblas, The Temple Sagrada Familia, and Camp Nou. I would not spend much time in the hostel. Since we have a lot of guests only staying one or two nights, it is just logical that these guests want to see as much as possible. Our challenge is: 'How can we come into contact with these guests?'



From different sides we were encouraged to think more about breakfast. Between 8.00 and 10.30 most of our guests start their day in our cafe. How can we make the most of this opportunity?

This started the idea for a breakfast-ministry that creates an environment where staff and guests can have their breakfast together and start the day with a talk about Jesus.

We want to challenge our staff and also our self as managers, to step out of our comfort-zone/ bed and to have breakfast with guests.

To create this atmosphere a fantastic movie / slide show was made by Brandon, one of our former staff members. He made a DVD-show with a lot of

short evangelistic movies, combined with photos and announcements. Brandon made it in a very professional way.

Movies and pictures can reach vision-oriented people on a deeper level and are an opportunity to start a conversation with guests.

On the weekends a staff member or a manager will stand up and as the host of the hostel he / she will welcome the guests. They will hear nice information about the city and will be invited to our weekend activities. Guests have already given positive reactions about this, which shows that these movies and talks are creating an environment in which it is easy to talk with guests. Still we believe that this is not enough. We are longing to talk with guests and share with them about the message of the Cross, but it takes faith to do it.

STAFFDAY

by Jenny Fey (staff member Shelter City)



I feel so fortunate to have been able to participate in staff day this year. I had only been with the Shelter Hostel Ministry two weeks when staff day took place.

Even in that short time it was made obvious that this day was a time of relaxation and refreshment for the hostel staff and was greatly appreciated by all.

We kicked off the day with our 20+ staff meeting at the Shelter City at

10:30 a.m. on May 20, full of energy and ready to enjoy a day together. It was enjoyable to see everyone on staff all at once which is rarely possible due to our very hectic schedules. The managers went over the itinerary for the day then we all set off in a herd of bicycles. The staff took a ferry to North Amsterdam where we began to leave the city in our wake, replaced by fields, small villages, and the occasional sheep.

We soon stopped for a picnic lunch at a little village church. At the end of May several staff ended their time with the Shelter ministry so the managers gave gifts and warm words of encouragement to the departing staff. We had a time of prayer for those leaving then packed our bikes and began the second half of our journey. We continued deeper and deeper into the countryside and closer to our final destination.

We eventually pulled off the main path and wound our way through some quiet village streets to the boat rental house. The staff split into either two and three person canoes or one person kayaks. We pushed off and started our journey down the beautiful canals. Some of the canoes had an easier journey than others, as evidenced by the



occasional canoe in the tree or zig-zag wake left behind the crooked canoes. There were nice conversations that went on as everyone basked in the warm sunshine and enjoyed each other's fellowship.

A few hours later the hungry and sunburned staff pulled our canoes onshore and changed into dry clothes, anxious to leave for dinner. We rode a little way to a quaint Pannekoekenhuis where the pancakes looked more like miniature

pizzas and tasted even better. We discussed the events of the day, who fell in the water, and whose pancake was best. We enjoyed our last few moments all



together then headed back to the city trying to hang onto the last few lingering moments of the day. A particular Psalm stood out to me as I reflected on this day; Psalm 23 says, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul." Thank you to all who made this day possible.

INTERNATIONAL BACKPACKERS MINISTRY FORUM

More information will follow but to let you know already: from November 17th till 20th 2008 an International Backpackers Ministry Forum is organised here in Amsterdam. The forum aims to give all those who attend an opportunity to explore, learn, share and shape ministry among backpacker travelers. Different backpacker ministries will present their work. Several workshops will take place to support, encourage and equip one another. This is a time where we network, meet and greet.

Reserve these days in your agenda!

NAMES & NEWS



Gladly we let you know that **Benjamin van Essen** (manager in both hostels) is going to marry **Teri Hansell** (former staff member in the Shelter City).

The marriage celebration will take place on July 5 in Towson in The United States and on July 26 here in Amsterdam.

Teri and Ben, all the best for your way together.
May God bless you richly.

PRAYER POINTS

Give thanks that many guests and cleaners react so positive to evangelism activities, that people are open and willing to hear the Gospel

Give thanks that Julian, a cleaner who came to faith and will be baptised

Give thanks that Ben and Teri found each other and are going to marry

Give thanks that guests really value the renewed Jordan hostel

Give thanks that also all the reparations that were still necessary after the renovation in the Jordan hostel are almost done now

Pray for more guests in both hostels. We have less guests than in the last two years around this time and of course we need the income to keep the hostels financially running.

Pray for new staff members. There are still people needed for this summer. We also need long term members for the next season. Some people who were accepted could not come

Pray for the new staff teams, in the summer they have often less time to get into everything, teams change more often.

Pray for wisdom, strength and health in the team

Pray for the breakfast-ministry and for the movies that the hearts of people will be reached

Pray for the current team of staff and managers that we receive the courage and faith to step out (of our bed) and to share about Jesus

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

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