

The Shelter Youth Hostel Ministry NEWSLETTER

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LET'S NOT PRAY FOR A COMFORTABLE YEAR

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Heb. 13: 8)

A new start

2007: A new year; a new start. A new commitment for those who started their Shelter time on the 1st of January. We met each other on Wednesday the 3rd on the Introduction day. How do you feel when you enter a new ministry? Maybe you feel like Solomon, who became king after his father David. He felt very small. Overwhelmed. He did not know how to carry out his duties. Does it sound like you on your first Shelter day?

Solomon

And so we opened the Introduction day with the passage out of 1 Kings 3. Imagine that God says to you: "Ask for whatever you want me to give you." What would you ask from Him? When you are anxious about what the ministry will be like, you may want to ask for smooth shifts, a wonderful team, no difficult guests, and peaceful days... But Solomon asked for a discerning heart. Open eyes. Strength to act upon what he knew to be the right thing to do. And God was pleased with it.

The Shelter will not always be nice and comfortable. Life will not always be easy in the staff house. Guests may ask difficult questions. The challenge is, not to pray for our own comfort, but to focus on the glory of God, so He can use us to work in the lives of our guests and in the meantime He is shaping our lives as well. 2007. A new year. The process of transformation continues...

While you sleep

Many of you worked in the Shelter in previous years. But it is exciting to think about the fact that the ministry still continues. When you eat your dinner, back in the States, the NM at the Shelter starts his shift. When you go to bed, the morning cafe is making French toast for the guests. And when you are asleep, the cleaner supervisor is sharing from the Bible with a new group of cleaners.

Time is a strange thing. And in the Shelter, time is even more an interesting factor. Volunteers from the past come back and serve another season. Cleaners from years ago come back to work again. The other day, a cleaner came back after getting out of an Italian prison. One of the refugees that stayed in 1995 in the hostel was cleaning again in December. Mami still plays the piano every now and then in the cafe.

T-shirt

Especially in these past months we met several old guests and cleaners. It made me think that old staff may still be praying for those they got to know at their Shelter time, not knowing how God uses your prayer today to draw people to



HE WHO DWELLS
IN THE SHELTER
OF THE MOST
HIGH WILL REST
IN THE SHADOW
OF THE ALMIGHTY

PS 91:1

Himself. Some weeks ago we got a letter from someone who came to faith in the Shelter in 1994. He wrote: "I stayed at the Shelter working as a cleaner. It was also the first time I experienced the awesome power of our God. I made some wonderful friends who helped me in my new life with Jesus. (...)I recently found the book "Experiencing Gods Shelter" which brought back so many memories of my time at the Shelter. I still have the T-shirt with Psalm 91:1 on the back, quite worn by now. (...) There is a special place in my heart for the place as that is were my walk with Christ first began."

What to pray for

2007. For some people: a new start at the Shelter to minister to current cleaners and guests. For most of you: a new year to minister to people at the place where you live right now. Let us not pray for a comfortable year, but for all that we need to minister to those around us, to the glory of God.

Hennie Maljaars-Tijsseling

NOW 40,000 CHANCES FOR THE GOSPEL

For many years we used the slogan "30,000 guests: 30,000 chances for the Gospel." But due to the increasing number of guests in the hostels we will have to change the number to 40,000. Last year we welcomed even a little more than 43,000 guests in our hostels! Thanks to the increase in guests, the hostels had a good year economically.



Our main purpose, however, is to share the Gospel of Christ with our guests. This is really exciting but it also is a challenge. In the coming weeks we will have a couple of **vision days** again, to catch a vision of how we can continue our ministry most effectively. Society is constantly changing, so is the world of traveling, and we need to continually search for ways to communicate the Gospel in a attractive and relevant way.

During the vision days we will also be thinking about how to support, encourage and coach our **staff** members best. The staff team is very dear to us and plays a essential part in our ministry. A big thank you to all of you who helped out during the Christmas period. Our team is well staffed till March. After that we have openings again for new people to join our team. If you are interested in signing up, please find the details on our website www.youthhostelministry.org.

Shelter Jordan is hoping to do some **rebuilding** at the end of 2007: a new kitchen and smaller rooms are some of the main projects. At this moment we need a lot of wisdom and grace to get the building plans approved by the local government. So far, the neighbors have appealed our plans which has caused uncertainty and delays.



If you would happen to visit the hostels, you will notice the **new sign** on the building. In the previous newsletter we mentioned that our logo has been re-styled to match our new name: Shelter Christian Hostels. A few weeks ago, the old logo above the main entrance was replaced by the new one.

For Dutch speakers we will be having two **open days** coming up at the YHM: on 19th and 26th February. For more details on this, please see our website.

PRAYER POINTS

Give thanks for the increase in guests and the help of over 100 staff and volunteers over the past year.

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 staff. Above all, that God will speak to their hearts.

Pray for our staff team. For unity and friendship, health and emotional strength. Also for growth in faith and desire to serve God wholeheartedly, as well as for a desire to meet guests and share Christ.

Pray for creativity and effectiveness in the various programs and activities such as the Bible discussion, evening devotional, cleaner time, city walk and hostel night.

Pray for the management team. For the vision days, for their own spiritual life, and as they hope to encourage and coach the staff members.

Pray for the Open Days in February. That many people will come and that some of them will get a vision to serve at the YHM.

Pray for the Shelter Jordan's building plans and necessary permits

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

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

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