

# The Shelter Youth Hostel Ministry NEWSLETTER

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## MANY NEW FACES

Thank you so much for your prayers and helping hands. After we send out a mailing to ask for more volunteers for August and following months, we were able to welcome many new team members. Once again, the Lord has provided workers for the harvest.

Seventeen new staff members joined us at the beginning of September, most of them will be staying long term. This means that our teams are full till December!



New staff members during their introduction meeting at the YHM

We also welcomed a new leadership couple at the staff community at the Willemsstraat. Dennis and Jorien Leydecker - both with a Shelter background - are the new coordinators of the living community. □



Dennis en Jorien Leydecker

## A FAREWELL PRAYER

With the poem/prayer on the right, we want to thank all of you with whom we lived and worked in the staff community over the last two years.



Krista and Gerrit Jan

It was awed to heaven, and rooted in earth. Thanks for your "yes" toward us when we rubbed shoulders, had fun, or had deep talks. Thanks for your "yes" toward us in welcoming us into your small-groups and sharing life's ups and downs. Our memory and prayers are with you always. Bloom where you are planted.

May we keep on living "yes" back to God, and living "yes" to one-another and our neighbors. We don't become missionaries by crossing the sea, but we become missionaries by seeing the cross. Praying that outsiders become insiders, that forgetters become rememberers, and that hopeless become hopeful.

Please welcome the new house-parent couple Dennis and Jorien into this ministry. They have given their "yes" to helping and serving you. They bring fresh perspectives and joy of their own. Many years ago, Dennis entered the Shelters as a guest and came to faith. In this sense he is the very embodiment of what the Shelters are all about. ->

-> Additionally Jorien was a committed staff member herself, knowing all the ins and outs. How fitting and encouraging for precisely them to take up this task. Some would say, "Life is lived forwards and understood backwards."

"Yes"

You are the God who is with us and for us.

You have committed yourself to us.

You have said

Yes to us in creation,

Yes to us in our birth

Yes to us in our baptism,

Yes to us in our waking up this morning.

But we are of another kind,  
More used to "perhaps, maybe,  
we'll see,"

We live our lives not back to your

Yes,

But out of our endless "perhaps."

So we pray for your mercy this day  
that we may live yes back to you,

yes with our time,

yes with our money,

yes with our sexuality,

yes with our strength

yes with our weakness

yes to our neighbor,

yes and no longer "perhaps."

In the name of your enfleshed YES  
to us,

Jesus who is our Yes into your  
future.

Amen.

(prayer after W. Brueggemann) □

Gerrit Jan and Krista van der Ziel

## ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN, RIGHT?

Ryan Fishel (24) joined the Shelter Ministry in October 2005 and stayed for more than a year. Reflecting on the time here, he can see how God has touched and changed lives, including his own.

### Amsterdam

Many guests who come to the hostel have a set opinion on what Christianity is. They wonder what Christ, who died two thousand years ago, has to do with today. Instead of just explaining, we ought to minister to them. Jesus told people that you'll know my disciples by their love. I walked through this city and met people from various ministries. I have definitely seen His love in this city.



Amsterdam

### Bible discussions

I spent time in the Bible discussions that I was crying. Not because it's all about emotions, but because you're talking about grace and love and you're caring for people. It's like all the emotions are on the table. You're sharing your personal stories. In those moments you know it: the Gospel and love is the most beautiful package you can give to somebody.

### Outreaches

I remember one outreach where we had a cookie night and we were making cookies that ->

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-> represented something people had done on their vacation or were planning on doing. There were cookies in the shape of tiki houses, boats, we even had an Eiffel tower.



Ryan Fishel

In the prayer time before the night, God showed me how much pain some people have. The Lord just showed me how much someone was hurting and I could feel this hurt. It was so special to know that the Lord was showing me to a deeper level of care and love.

He showed me there are people who go on vacation to run away from their stress, their pain, some burden. The problem is, that when you go home, it will still be there. I explained that I had been there. And I told them that Jesus was calling out to them to come to Him and receive His peace.

At home in the Willemstraat When I came here, I thought: this ministry is about evangelism and I do evangelism. I can do it here, just as I was used to back in Las Vegas. But God has given me relationships in which I can learn new things. Here I was able to help people to leave their comfort zone. Push them. I see such a thirst in the staff. "How can I do the will of God?" I get this question so often. This question comes from someone who has been in prayer, in the word. The shelter is an effective ministry, but also a school for the people that work here. ->

-> I've learned to listen more on a one-to-one basis and I have seen a lot of people change. It's been a lot of that. Been a party pooper sometimes, put my foot down when I ran into things like gossip. I have seen many times that the Lord corrected us. It's kinda like: we fall short. For myself: I was impatient, I was hasty to be about my agenda. Then you see how the Lord convicts you.

### In my life

After the Shelter I'm going to Norway to be trained to be a missionary. I knew this before I came and when I realized the Lord directing me to Amsterdam, I wondered why. It turned out that God did not want to teach me more about theology here, but he wanted to change my heart. He has taught to listen more, love more, to be gentle to people.

In the past, when I was talking to people, I would think: I know what they are going to say. When you really listen and you're not impatient, it turns out you don't know what they are going to say. You may have a general idea, but every one's story is different. It's like listening to someone's testimony, but knowing that it misses the point. It's still only a story. Here we have the opportunity to see someone's story become a testimony.

And caring. That's what the Lord's grilled into me. It was painful. It's not so much that I'm in community now, but the fact that instead of being in leadership, the Lord put me under leadership. There are rules, that the leadership abides by, there are teachings. It's been a much more personal time. There are times that the Lord wants us to focus on ourselves. It's also a test, because I know that I can be selfish. Jesus wants me to focus on myself in His way □

Ryan Fishel

## WHAT'S NEW, JACOB?

Jacob Kops, general manager of the Shelters, informs us of developments and changes at the hostels.



New kitchen? At the Shelter Jordan we'd like to renew the entire kitchen. It is necessary to put in a new foundation and to rebuild all the walls. Unfortunately the neighbors are not in agreement with this and can delay the building-permit procedure for up to four (!) years. Please pray that a solution will be found that is acceptable to all.

Smaller dorms. As you probably know, the Shelter City has smaller dorms for 4, 6 and 8 persons as well as bigger dorms for 12-18 guests. We are planning to offer the same accommodation at the Shelter Jordan as well, turning some of the current dorms in 4, 6 and 8 bedded rooms. Maybe this project will start in the fall of next year. It would mean that the hostel has to close down for a few months.

Testimony. Those of you who receive the magazine "De Oogst" can read the testimony of Steven, a guest who came to faith in Christ and was baptized this summer.

Books wanted. We are looking for used Christian books. Books that are filling up your bookshelf may be used as a blessing to our guests. Especially English books, but also books in German or French would be very welcome. If you would like to give us some of your old books, please contact Jacob Kops, [Jacob@shelter.nl](mailto:Jacob@shelter.nl) ->

No more youth hostel. We have changed the name of the hostels. We are not longer calling ourselves a "youth hostel" but "hostel" instead. With this we are following a trend in tourism, more and more accommodations are calling themselves "hostel" or even "hotel" now. It also fits our current accommodation. With 4, 6 and 8-bedded rooms, the hostel is also suitable for older guests or families. We have dropped the age limit and it is up to each traveler to decide whether our accommodation is comfortable enough or not.

The official name of the hostels is now: Shelter Christian hostels. The logo has been restyled to go with this change.



Wedding. Shelter Jordan ministry supervisor Freek Koster is getting married to Louise Best, on 20<sup>th</sup> October. Congratulations!

Many guests. The hostels have been very full over the last months. Lots of travelers find their way to the Shelters. We are thankful for this.

CS new style. Were you a cleaning supervisor once? Maybe you'd be interested to know that Ben has introduced a new cleaning program. We are now using less water and more professional material. The showers are now being "foamed".

To conclude, Jesus said that the world is the harvest field, not just the Shelter. If you have left the YHM please remember that you are still a witness. May the Lord bless you wherever He has placed you ☐

## PRAYER POINTS

- Give thanks for the many hostel guests and for enough staff members till the end of the year.
- Pray for Dennis and Jorien, the new coordinators of the staff community.
- Pray for the spiritual life of the staff, unity, and a passion for evangelism.
- Pray for the cleaners and cleaning supervisors as they share from the Bible every day.
- Pray for the outreaches every Friday evening and the daily Bible discussions.
- Pray for kitchen building project and the permits needed for this.
- Pray for the management teams of both hostels.
- Pray for the Ministry Training Program and the teachers.
- Pray for those who have left the YHM and those who will do so in the coming months. Some are struggling to fit back in their old life when they have changed to much at the Shelter.

**The Shelter Youth Hostel Ministry** is a Christian evangelism ministry in the centre of Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Our goal is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the 30,000 travelers who are staying each year in our two Christian youth hostels: Shelter City and Shelter Jordan. The ministry is part of the association Tot Heil des Volks, a non-denominational mission organization registered in Amsterdam. Internet: [www.youthhostelministry.org](http://www.youthhostelministry.org)

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