



## *A Blessing for 2023*

"May we continue to hold on  
to the light and faith within us,  
as we believe and long  
in confidence and obedience,  
for our promise of His coming  
in the midst of our joy and suffering."  
*(based on Hebrews 10:32-39)*

***Hello dear Family,***

### ***The blessing of light through darkness....***

These last few months have been a challenge and a blessing for all of us. We were sick a lot and seemed to take forever to recover from the last virus. We got covid and a variety of other viral infections. As soon as we thought we were over one, the next one seemed to hit. In late march we finally started feeling normal again. Since many around us where also sick we continued to meet with people as much as we were able to or help them with care by bringing them meals, several chicken soup batches!, and supplements to ease their colds.

### ***Andre's story (Anna's Brother)***

Since Anna's visit in January we knew that Andre's health was declining. In mid February he was admitted to the hospital and even though one doctor gave them hope of more time, he was moved to hospice care in the hospital after 3

days. Anna arrived a couple days later and was able to anoint him, pray over and with him and bless him. Within minutes he breathed his last breath in peace and surrender. It was such an honor and blessing to be able to minister to them in this way. Andre accepted Jesus when he was little but left the life of faith and the church when he was sixteen. He was seen as the black sheep of the family and Anna's dad would always try to convert him back to the mennonite faith and church. Andre wanted nothing to do with the church and firmly said "no" to the kind chaplain at the hospital when he asked if he could visit with them while he was in hospice care.



Anna has always been close with this family and has had many conversations with him about God's love for all of us, regardless of church attendance or denomination. Andre was a good and loving man, father and brother and he and his wife had their two children confirmed in the local lutheran church. Outside of that there was not evidence of faith. Yet when he told Anna weeks before he died that he had made peace with God and in the end agreed to have her anoint and bless him, his faith was present and God's holy presence welcomed him into eternity with open arms. We will find out in heaven how he made peace with God but we were able to witness the result of it. Because of this, his wife, children and grandchildren are seeking God in their personal lives. Anna has been accompanying them on this journey and they are experiencing His love and presence in a very real and personal way. What a blessing and privilege this is and what a reunion Andre is having in heaven with his father, mother and siblings!

As much as we treasure this and rejoice with them, the reality of losing him too soon is still present and grief has to be felt and journeyed with. It is such a mystery to be able to hold both, joy and sorrow and feel at peace through it all. God is so faithful. Thank you, for your prayers!



## *Life*

We celebrated easter with a small group and are in the middle of walking several missionaries through their transition and debriefing as they leave in late June. Micah is currently in track and is a captain. He so enjoys being a part of a team and encouraging others. His senior year is winding down as he has only six weeks until graduation!



One of the young families we support and mentor is having their second baby in late may or early June and we are on call to take care of their two year old. Anna loves hanging out with Graham - the two year old- for a couple hours each week. It is life giving to her and to him. Their sweet little family will also be transitioning back to the US for a home assignment for a year in early august.

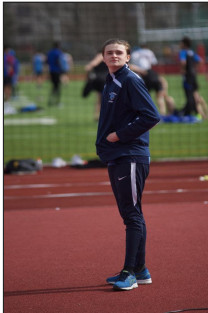


### ***Visitors***

We are expecting several sets of visitors in the next few weeks and months. First David's mother Norma, brother Daniel and sister in law Kelli will be coming mid May and stay with us and be here for Micah's graduation. In June there are visits from families of some of our younger lady missionaries and in July there are some more loved ones coming through.



### ***Micah and visiting America!***



Micah has decided that he would like to do a gap year and possibly do a DTS - discipleship training school with YWAM in Norway. He is in the application process with them and the session he would like to attend would start in January and will go until June of next year. Until then he would like to check out the USA, get his driver's license and work to earn some money and experience. He has not been back in the USA since we left almost ten years ago.

We are also sorely overdue to visit with all of you and are planning on traveling to Minnesota and Washington State starting in mid August. We will travel with Micah and get him started on his license and all that goes into living as an adult. We are still working on an itinerary and will fill you all in soon. We are excited to see, hug and visit with so many of you!



***A few more photos at the bottom...***

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### ***Praises***

- Praising God for a good job for Hannah! She started working at Jo and the Juice in February and really likes it. It is in Rotterdam and the commute is very reasonable. There is potential for her to be trained as a manager and she is hoping to do so. In the meantime she is being as artsy as she has time and accepts commissions when they fit her skill set. Thank you, for praying!
- Praising God for Andre's salvation and his families new journeys with God.
- Praising God for health and strength and this beautiful life we are meant to live!

### ***Prayer Requests***

- Continue to pray for Micah and these last six weeks of school. He has his Advanced Placement Exams this week. Pray for peace and open doors for the things God would lead him to do this next year.
- Continue to pray for Andre's family: Irene, Jenny, Andy, Davide, Loris and Isalee and the new baby due in June.
- Continue to pray for the missionaries that are leaving their fields this year, either for a year or permanently. These are huge shifts in their personal and ministry lives and usually affect them greatly emotionally and spiritually. Pray for protection, provision, courage and for faith to increase. Pray for Kelly, the R. family with two little ones, Hannah, Joy, Paige, the A. family with one little one and the Tyler family. Pray for us to have wisdom as we walk and minister with them.
- Pray for all our visitors that will be coming through, for safety in travels and a good time here. Pray for us as we host and juggle our usual assignments.

***Donations are a blessing!***

***Thank you, for supporting our Ministry!***

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David



Anna





Hannah making a cappuccino at work.



Love our walks above our town.



David having fun helping our neighbor who got his wood delivered for heating next year.



David in the process of installing a door for a missionary who lives with a German lady. It had a curtain there before.

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