



Newsletter No. 11

July 2009

"Therefore as Gods chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience....." (Colossians 3:12)



Dear family and friends,

The rain is ticking on the rooftop, the heating is turned on: winter has arrived. While those in Europe are enjoying the bright sunlight we are all dressed up in our winter clothes. This will be our 3rd winter in Australia..... our biological clock still indicates though that in July summer should be on its way. Will we ever get used to it?

Winter-season also means that our "small-group" from church has started. We recently joined a new group with about 10 other members from our church, some of them are good friends from BCV. It is great to be able to spend time together having fun, fellowship and share time studying the Bible. We are currently looking at Colossians. This book shows us clearly that we should focus on what Jesus Christ "achieved" on the cross and live our our faith in freedom. We encourage you to read it!



Arjan

People regularly ask me how it is to change from being a student to becoming a flight instructor. My straight-forward response is that students learn many new skills, but that an instructor learns even more. This is obviously not entirely true, but it definitely indicates that I am learning heaps in my new role: before you can explain a theory to someone else you have to make sure you know all the relevant details yourself. I found myself a couple of time in a situation where I thought I knew my topic quite well, but reviewing the material I found that there was a lot more to it...

One of the other new skills I am currently learning is mentoring students: how to motivate them an how to have them make the right decisions (priorities) with regard to homework, study, etc. This year the group of students is quite young (average 20-22yr) which means that most of them have very limited work-experience.

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Joshua

Joshua is thriving. He more and more starts to use plain (and understandable) language, although it is often a mix of Dutch and English. Experts say everything will be okay and he will speak both languages fluent by the time he is 5 years old. We'll see.....

Good news with regard to his allergies. Last month we visited the pedeatrician for some skintests. The results were very positive: He showed no more signs of a milkallergy which is great news. In the past weeks we had to increase his daily milkintake and so far everything is fine. Joshua enjoys his new food so much he can hardly wait for the desert to be served. I photo says more then a thousand words.....

He still has an allergy for egg, although this has reduced significantly. The expectation is that he will grow out of it in a couple of years time. Praise God!



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They still need to develop specific work-related responsibilities like time-management and task prioritizing. This are quite relevant skills in both the aviation environment and as a mission aviation pilot. As an instructor I have the important task to help them develop these skills. You have to lead by example.....

....and that is not always an easy job: To be honest I have to say that I –for example- do not always have the best attitude toward others when I am trying to wake up in the morning. What do you do if someone hasn't finished his/her homework (again?) It is definitely not always easy to have a mature approach, but in the end you need to leave the responsibility where it belongs: with the student. I have to learn to be patient in this process: A student doesn't become a professional pilot in one day and I suppose it's the same with junior flight instructors.

I really enjoy my job and I consider it as a great blessing to be able to work with the students to help them train and prepare towards becoming a mission pilot.



Caroline

I am doing well. It is a privilege to be able to spend so much time with Joshua and I really enjoy doing things together. A walking/cycling trail starts close to our home which gives me the opportunity to go cycling and walking and to enjoy God creation. There are lots of birds around: cockatoos and lorikeets. Joshua doesn't miss out on any opportunity to spot them.

Next week I will start work as a volunteer for "Dutch care". This is an Australian organisation that looks after elderly people with a Dutch background. Many "dutchies" have migrated to Australia in the 1950's and are old and grey now. A increasing number of them are quite lonely due to the fact that as you get older you return to your mothertongue as main language. Not so good if you live in Australia. Fortunately I do still speak Dutch (a little)..... I will be involved in "friendly visits" which means I will visit people and help them with some around-the-house-things. Joshua is more than welcome to accompany me and that makes this work quite convenient.

The move from BCV to an "Aussie neighbourhood"

We have been living in an "average" aussie neighbourhood for the last 4 months. What is our experience so far?

Our life has changed significantly with regard to the small every-day activities: we need no put the garbage-bins on the roadside, something which is easily forgotten after not needing to do this for the past 2 years.

We now have our own washingmachine which is quite convenient: no more running around between the BCV laundry and our unit, only to find out that all the washingmachines have been taken. And with our little explorer and all the washing he generates this is a blessing!

The main change is the social activities: at BCV there was always something to do and always someone for a chat. We have a quiet street which makes it harder to talk to a neighbour, although we have a good relations with our closest neighbours.

How you can praise and pray with and for us

- Praise God for Joshua's health and his milkallergy
- Pray for wisdom for Arjan as he is working with the students: that he may teach them well. For safe flight; at times it can be very busy in Melbourne airspace
- For Caroline as she is starting with "Dutch care" next week
- For physical health: winter has arrived with it's colds and flues



This bring you to the end of this update on what's happening with us, we wish all of you Gods richest blessings!

Arjan, Caroline & Joshua

Our contact details:

Arjan, Caroline & Joshua Bijl
Unit 15/75 Eastfieldroad
Croydon VIC 3136
Phone: 03 9723 9417
Mobile: 0431 906540
Email: fambijl@flightplanning.nl
Website: www.flightplanning.nl

Contact details supportgroup:

Marjan Sterken
Boterbloemstraat 23
4341 KB Arnemuiden
The Netherlands
0031 (0)118 435 146
tfc@flightplanning.nl

Support details:

Branch/Account No.: 733107 690361
(Westpac)
Account name: J.A. Bijl
Request for e-Newsletter:
info@flightplanning.nl