



Newsletter No.6

April 2008



To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy –to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! (Jude 24-25)

Dear family and friends,

Finally our first English newsletter from "Down Under". First of all we want to thank you for all the emails, postcards and gifts that we received after the birth of Joshua. It was overwhelming..... THANKS!

Summer holiday

We had a nice summer holiday in which we had plenty of time to get used to our new "family-life". The big advantage of having a holiday was the spare time to get a bit of sleep during the day as Joshua was keeping us awake most of the night in the first weeks after his arrival. We had a good time with Arjan's parents and some friends who were visiting from Holland. It was good to see them again and to be able to spend time together.

Most of the holiday we stayed in our own unit at BCV while Arjan's parents used a house close to campus, but we also were able to use the house of a BCV lecturer for three weeks. He was on holiday with his family and asked us to look after his animals. Their house is located in the beautiful surroundings of the Dandenongs, only a 20 minute drive away from college.



Arjan

The flight training goes well but is very demanding in terms of time and energy. He finds a good time for relaxing in spending time with Caroline and little Joshua in the evening.

The training schedule has been delayed for about three weeks due to weather and maintenance on the aeroplanes. However he probably will do his PPL practical exam next week. The first big step on the way to get his commercial licence!

The theory studies are going well as the main part is a repetition from his previous training with the Dutch Navy. However he has to go through all this theory again as he is required to sit the exams. Fortunately he doesn't have to be in the theory classes which means he is able to do this at his own pace.



Joshua

Joshua is doing a great job. In Holland they tend to say: "he is growing like cabbage". We're not sure whether Australian cabbage grows as fast as Dutch cabbage, but Joshua certainly does.....His weight is already 7kg! People often don't believe us when we tell them he's only 4 months old. One day we were shopping in the supermarket and a woman asked how old Joshua was. After we told her she looked very surprised and

said: He is as big as my son and he is already one year old!"

Furthermore he is a very happy fellow and a real charmer. He distributes lots of smiles and often finds himself in the middle of attention at morning tea at BCV where people are listening to his non-understandable baby-talk.

Caroline

Caroline's life is quite different from last year. She unfortunately is unable to study this year at BCV as the Australian Government does not allow overseas students to take a part-time studyload. A fulltime load would be too difficult to combine with the care for Joshua and thus she will be fulltime mum this year (something she enjoys every day!). She tries to stay involved with campus life at BCV as much as possible and she also attends a so called "mums-group". It is a group of new first-time mums. They share their experiences and have a lot of fun together.



Praise/Prayer requests

- For all the good friends we have here
- The exams Arjan passed
- Pray for insight and guidance for the next step in our journey and the interviews with MAF Australia
- Arjan's theory and practical tests in the next few weeks

Next step...

We currently don't know what the next step will be after we finish at BCV. We are still in the process of searching for God's will. Our initial plan is to return to the Netherlands for a short period to visit family, friends and raise funds, but then.....

It is very important for Arjan to build his flying hours. After finishing his training at BCV he will have around 300 hrs, whereas 500-1000 hrs are required in most of MAF's projects. The big question is where Arjan will gain these additional hours. There are

not a lot of options as Arjan's licence will only be valid in Australia. It will be difficult (and expensive) to get it transferred to a different country.

One of the possible options is a MAF project in Arnhemland where you can start with limited experience straight finishing at BCV. We currently are in the process of orientation/interviews with MAF Australia to consider this.

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