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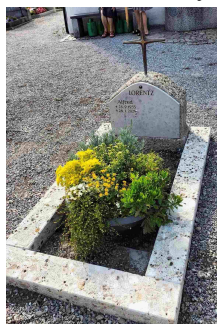


December 2024

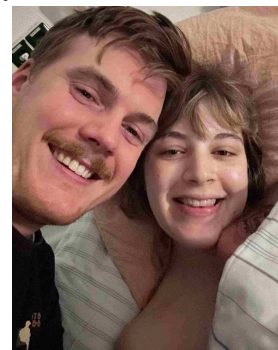
And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Phil 4:7

You don't have to know me long to know how much the song Silent Night annoys me. But at this time of year there is no escape. I loved it as a child, but the smiling child with blond hair is too far removed from reality for me. The rest of the family loves the song. But the song also expresses a hope, and I can share in that. A year of ups and



downs began with the unexpected death of my father at the end of January. My mother, with worsening Alzheimer's, dealt with it better than expected. But she has good days and bad days. Shortly afterwards we found out that we would be grandparents at the end of the year. On Reformation Day our grandson was born earlier than expected, but we were all happy and grateful. After a few days, however, Moriah-Jane got hit really hard with postpartum depression that required intense treatment. Ups and downs alternate quickly. You can prepare well, but there are no guarantees. Mental health is a big issue in our family. Kay has grandparents, a father and other close relatives who



struggle with it for much of their lives; sometimes diagnosed, sometimes not. In our family, we thought we were spared from it for a long time, but most of us need or have needed therapy and medication. This has nothing to do with how much you trust and love God or how you live, whether you deserve it or not. It can also come very quickly and unexpectedly. It is often an up and down. It is similar in other areas. Nothing is guaranteed. But God is good and faithful! He loves us and has a good plan. We are in His hands. Silent Night has nothing to do with a silent night, but with peace in the midst of chaos. God can give deep inner peace, even when everything around us is falling apart. We have experienced this many times. We wish this for all of you, no matter what is going on in your life; in this Christmas season, but also at other times.



Our visit to Germany was nice, but also different than usual. After 7 years, Kay and I finally flew together again. For the first time, our base was Rosenheim and not my parents' apartment. This time we only drove past Munich. We came for my parents' 60th wedding anniversary, which Dad unfortunately didn't live to see. At least we celebrated her 80th birthday with Mom. We had a nice time with the family and made a few visits. Since we didn't have a car this time, we had to rent one. To finish off, we had the Globe Mission family camp this time, which was a wonderful time of encounters and encouragement. All of this was only possible because Barbara and Daniel looked after the younger ones during this time, mostly during the holidays.





Financially, this was probably our most expensive trip to Germany. Unlike usual, we hardly received any donations in Germany during this time. Financially, things have been tight before, but this time we came back and didn't have the money for the house payment in mid-July. But our wonderful church helped us once off! We also started a program with our church that lasted several weeks and was intended to help, among other things, put our work on a more secure financial footing. Shortly afterwards, we launched a call for donations to expand the monthly circle of regular donors. We have now reached 70% of our goal! We are very grateful to God and the donors for that!



Kay led several good training courses again. At the beginning of the year, she will fly back to Holland for the annual training with Youth with a Mission. This time, she is particularly excited that she can spend a few days in Frankfurt to meet our grandson in person.



We continue to support several soup kitchens in Fisantekraal. Hunger is a daily reality for many people. Mfuleni is the work highlight of the year for us. We have been supporting Siya and his team since March. We particularly support the soup kitchen and the large family there. We will probably also be conducting our training for Siya and his team from March onwards. This will help their work in the long term.



Last month, after 6 years, Kay's sisters came, some with their families. We had great times together. Now we are looking forward to the long summer holidays here. A break from the daily school trips and afternoon programs. It has now been almost 8 years as an extended family. 8 years in which many things have healed, but some of the wounds and consequences of the traumatic past will stay with our children for a long time or forever. They have challenges that most children do not have. These invisible traces are often expressed in behavior that untrained teachers can easily misinterpret. School is very challenging for our children. We are proud that they all passed the year. After a bumpy start, Rohan has also learned to read! But they will probably need extra support for a long time to come. We are grateful for friends and our church who support us in this.



We are grateful for the car that we can use in addition to our bus, but it is old and not always reliable. Since we cannot get a loan at the moment, we are grateful for any help to increase the car fund.

In this life full of ups and downs, we are grateful for the peace and anchor that we have in Jesus! May this be your experience too!

We wish you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Holger and Kay

Donations to:



Reference „Lorentz, Project 103“  
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