

# FAMILY UPDATE

The Van Wijngaarden Family in the **USA** (well, coming soon actually ;-)

## Please pray for:

- the visa for our family that everything, including the interview coming Monday, may go smoothly and the visa will soon be provided;
- the peace in our family due to many stress causing events as we are preparing the move in the coming two months;
- that the scholarship which Andreas applied for will be awarded;
- wisdom in regards of deciding which primary school will be the best option for our boys;
- for finding a church soon after arrival that will fit for our family and thus we may feel at home;
- that we are able to build new relationships and in particular for Katharine and the boys;
- settling well overall and that we may soon find a new life rhythm individually as well as a family.



## A new season of life

In nature there is a new season every three months, but in life these seasons, normally, occur in a lower pace. Nevertheless, when it is there, the impact is always significant, just like it is in nature. And as we are approaching a new season of life in our family we certainly experience that big impact in every area of life.

Through this update we would like to inform you what this new season in the life of our family means as we are in the midst of preparing for our move to the United States of America this spring.

### *Covenant Theological Seminary*

One of the primary reasons to make this move is that there is a desire for a lifetime of ministry and that Andreas, as part of the preparation, is starting his training by pursuing a Master of Divinity, which will start on the 3rd of June with 'Summer Greek'.

As there is much to take care of when we arrive, we decided



## Leaving behind

Recently the mother of Andreas had a bowel perforation and was taken to the hospital for an immediate surgery. After that, her body had to fight for survival for several days as she lay critical on the intensive care. Thank God she survived, but nevertheless she will have a long recovery ahead of her that can easily take months.

It are these moments that make you even more aware what sacrifice there is to bring for following this path in life.

Certainly it made us think over the step ahead of us due to these (and other serious) health problems in the family, but as we truly believe it is our road to go in this world, we can still take this next step boldly and trust the Lord in everything as He guides and provides.

*"The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps."* **Proverbs 16:9**

to move there as soon as it is possible. Our visa, which we expect to receive this month, will let us into the country with a maximum of 30 days before classes start. So, as soon as we receive the visa, we will book the plane tickets and then we will know exactly what will be the date of arrival.

Although there will be no dull moment when we arrive, it is definitely not very different already. Activities like going through the comprehensive procedure of the visa application, finding the best flight tickets, organising a health insurance, deciding what (not) to move, etcetera are piece by piece time consuming and cause an alternation in emotions between excitement and wondering if this will ever come to an end (which will happen, but takes another two months).

### *Some things never change*

And that is true, but for our family a lot of things will change, like:

- the boys will go (back) to school after this summer after several years of home education;
- we will move to an apartment on campus with two bedrooms, so the boys will have to share their room and sleep in a bunk bed;
- we will join a new church and have to build new relationships;
- hopefully we are able to find a house near the primary school and/or seminary and/or church this summer, so that we will be able to live with a bit more space than the campus apartment.

And we are sure there will be a lot more things that will change, but if you will ask us in about six months we probably can also tell you what we miss (the most) as we are, and always be, a Dutch family.

Anyway, the next update is planned for this spring after we have arrived in Saint Louis, Missouri.

