

# News

MART-JAN &  
TALITHA  
JOY, MICHA  
AND AMY

"... to proclaim good news  
to the poor..."  
Luke 4 verse 18-19



## Camping in Cambodia!

Many of us will remember it as a unforgettable and often life changing event: a couple of days in nature, getting to know each other, enjoying Gods creation, music, training, sports, games and don't forget humor. Of course, we're talking about camp!

Recently Alongsiders (we wrote about them in our previous newsletter) bought a piece of land close to the sea in Kep in the south of Cambodia. It's raw and undeveloped land, but very beautiful and it will be developed for camps. The vision is that this very piece of land is used to facilitate the camp for Alongsiders but also for the wider (poor) churches and groups here in Cambodia.

Alongsiders already had camps for a long time but over time the facilities start

to limit the camp experience more and more. For example: they've had camps in hotels, which is not only expensive but is not the ideal camp environment either.

We're excited to announce that we officially started working together with Alongsiders at the beginning of this month! They have asked us to help this camp work getting started, and to develop the camp ground itself. We see it as something special and very valuable to be a part of this great work.

During the last months we have had the opportunity to get to know Alongsiders a bit better, and to see a team develop that will work on the development of the camp. Besides people, a lot of materials are available as well, allowing us to really start working on the camp now.

Of course this will not be a 'over-night' project. There is a lot to do before the first camps can really kick-off. For

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example the land does not have any water or electricity, and so there is a lot to research how to get this all in place well.

We will work on this 'project' together with local Christians. We look forward to get to know them better and to learn from them, to share and to encourage each other. For the longer term, there will be a time when we will move on and the local Christians will run it all.

We are very grateful for this opportunity to serve the Cambodian people, especially the local Christians here.

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This News is sent out about 4 times a year in order to inform you well about the things that are happening in our lives and enables you to pray with us. Feel free to forward this letter to others.

You can subscribe or unsubscribe via our website [www.2followus.wordpress.com](http://www.2followus.wordpress.com). On our website you will also find more information and a BLOG. If you have any questions please ask us!



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## ALONGSIDERS

Alongsiders started about 16 years ago in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Craig, the founder of Alongsiders moved, together with his wife Nay to a slum in Phnom Penh to reach out to the poor, the lonely, the children who had lost their parents, the people that were looked down on. All of this with the

goal to love them, and show them the love of Jesus Christ. They lived where they lived, and were really 'with' them. However after some time they begin to feel their limitations more and more, how to reach out to so many, and to know there are so many more.

The limitation did result in more and more intense prayer to see a movement of young Cambodian Christians that would reach out to their own people. Poor to poor, Cambodian to Cambodian. The Lord did not leave this prayer unanswered, on the contrary...

Alongsiders started with just a handful of Cambodian Christians. Starting & struggling, adapt & continue. In this process Alongsiders was 'born' and the ideas that arose have been tested in real discipleship-life. Officially Alongsiders Cambodia 'started' back in 2003.

In Cambodian culture people are addressed with 'older' brother or sister, or 'younger' brother or sister. Alongsiders connects to this by making couples of an 'older' and a 'younger', whereby the 'older' does the discipling of the 'younger'. Male to male, female to female. Alongsiders developed a 3-year discipleship program where 'older' and 'younger' go through together. This program covers all the major topics of Christianity, but also issues like care for oneself and others. There is a



*Alongsiders: "We walk alongside those who walk alone"*



## Practical information

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## Financial support:

Alongsiders does not pay us a salary. We're very grateful for those who want to support us financially. If you want to do so, then please use the Dutch bank details as stated below:

Foundation: Nehemia (ANBI)  
Please note: Project church-work  
Cambodia

IBAN: **NL66 SNSB 0931 7011 39**  
BIC: **SNSBNL2A**

special focus on the specific problems that Cambodia faces like, human trafficking, prostitution, corruption and addictions. The program is written to prevent these things and does give the youth practical ways to handle them. Another part of the program is an annual camp where 'older' and 'younger' go to together. It gives training, time together and a lot of fun! For many this is one of the best times of the year.

Today Alongsiders is a movement where hundreds of young Christians reach out to their neighbours, friends and fellow-slum-people with the good news of Jesus Christ. It touches us to see what is happening.

As for us, we will focus on the camp. For now there is nothing yet on the camp-ground and we have all the freedom to research what we need and how this could look like. Enough to keep one busy;-) Again, we are very happy to work in a team and have many people offering advice.

In one of the following newsletters we will explain more about our role and work.

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## FAMILY UPDATE

We are doing well. The language studies for Talitha are progressing well and home-schooling does so as well (Mart-Jan is the 'teacher' now). We have also spend some time on the preparations for the camp. Because we've chosen not to study language together anymore we have time for that. We enjoy it very much and are getting to know each other better and better.

Joy and Micha are working on a project about the North-Pole and have lots of ideas how to go about it. Joy is planning on a North-Pole expedition and Micha is developing a expedition centre. They face all kinds of 'problems' of course. How do you keep such a centre heated? And, how do you ensure you have enough food for such an expedition? For now there is enough to explore (even without going to the North-Pole in real life;-)).

An advantage of home-schooling is the flexibility. Sometimes we suddenly have a day-off to go to Kep to, together with the Alongsiders team, go searching for a good piece of land for the camp. Wake up at 5 in the morning, by motorbike to the Alongsiders office. Travel all the way to Kep, visit all kinds of land, pray together, travel all the way back to Phnom Penh and be home around 8 in the evening. Safe and sound and completely exhausted of course, but

with many good memories and a lot of photos.

This coming summer we will travel to Holland for little over 3 months to have our first furlough.

We are looking forward to meet family and friends in 'real-life' instead of Skype. We are also looking forward to see the forests, beaches and breath the fresh Dutch air.

5. some beautiful contacts we have with local people.
6. progressing well with the language studies.

### PRAY FOR:

1. our relation with the Lord to deepen and to grow every day.
2. strength, energy, health for all the different tasks we need to do.
3. all the preparations that take place



Besides rest and relaxation we also plan to have time to share about what God is doing in Cambodia and specifically in the work we are doing.

In a later newsletter we will share more about these opportunities.

Joy and Micha will, after the summer break, join their classes at the Regenboog-school in Middelburg. They are very much looking forward to meet their class-

mates again!

### ITEMS FOR PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

#### GIVE THANKS FOR:

1. God's care for us. Every day afresh. We count our blessings!
2. the opportunity to join Alongsiders and serve the Cambodian people together with them.
3. 2-nd Mile, a local church that we visit regularly.
4. the opportunity for Joy and Micha to join their classes when we are on furlough in Holland.

- to start building the camp in Kep.
4. protection is the spiritual battle that is found everywhere where God is at work.
5. Sak our househelper, Heng the tuk-tuk man and his family, and pray for bong Wi, the fruit seller. Please also pray for the house owner and his family.
6. the homeschooling. It's going well, but we want to stay fresh and on-top of it.
7. the preparations for our furlough (July - October 2016).
8. the last bits of language studies at G2K. We aim to finish all the essentials before our furlough.

All your help, prayers, thanksgiving, encouragements, financial gifts and many more are a huge blessing to us. Thank to be God and also to you!

Blessings,  
Mart-Jan & Talitha,  
Joy, Micha and Amy



## KIDS 2 KIDS

This time we have add a nice drawing from Micha on the 'kidspagina' - print it, color it! Have fun:-)

