



'For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.'

Titus 2:11 (NIV)

December 2018 – Dear CBS friends,

Expectations are often high when something important is coming up. Is this also true when we think about Christ's return? Advent means 'coming'. His first coming was about 2018 years ago, which we celebrate now with Christmas.

Are we looking forward to His second coming? God's Word tells us it will happen, but we don't know exactly when. A lot in this world is calling for renewal, recovery/restoration, and justice. Do we remain alert and grounded in His Word? Are we light and salt in this world till He comes again?

My prayer is that these Advent weeks may strengthen us in this, till He comes! Wishing you a blessed time of Advent and a joyful Christmas. Hope to see you in Anno Domini 2019.

On behalf of our team, and together in Him,

Wilma Aalbersberg
Director Community Bible Study Nederland



Materials – new Global version

In our country a lot of studies are available in what we call the standard version. Worldwide all the new studies are coming now in a new version, the Global (GL) version. This version can be used next to other languages in one group or with multiple languages in parallel groups.

We have materials available in both versions. On our website, look at 'Materials', you can see which study is available in which version. Also an explanation in Dutch about these different versions can be read here. For English see: <https://cbseurope.org/study>

As of September the study of Acts is available in the GL version. In 30 lessons you walk through this Bible book. To order, as always: via the website contact form or send us an email.

The GL of Ephesians, 12 lessons, is in the process of translation. You can keep this in mind when thinking of plans for your next season.



Groups with Arabic speakers have started! – Fundraising

Groups with Arabic speakers have started! Out of the European office contacts have been made with Arabic speaking Christians in the Netherlands. Some leaders have already been trained in the format of CBS, how to work with the materials in groups and how to accompany and lead a group.

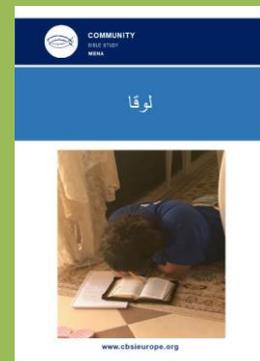
Groups have started in Enschede, Deventer, Hengelo, Nijmegen en Zwolle. Some are still small (5-9 participants). Participants come from the Middle-East, Syria, Iraq, and Egypt. A pastor with Egyptian background, and a couple from Syria are leading these groups. They all live already in the Netherlands for quite a while. Next to his a Dutch woman started out of her local church a small group with Arabic, Farsi, and Dutch speakers! All these groups are studying the Gospel of Luke, in which the life of our Lord Jesus is proclaimed from the beginning till the end, and in which we all are addressed by Him.

They are encouraged to read the Bible themselves, but because of education or circumstances this is not always easy for them. They are also encouraged to talk about this and invite others. The CBS method helps them by preparing the questions at home, and the discussion of it in the group. Participants are enthusiastic and their desire to be part of this is growing.

A beautiful development! We also know that finances can be an obstruction to join or to invite others. To support these brothers and sisters we ask boldly for financial support for these groups. Please take a moment to think about this.

Is adopting a group a possibility for you? Or can you with your CBS group or as an individual give a gift for this work? This helps us, if necessary, e.g. to offer them material with discount. If you like to help, see at the bottom of this page for our bank account number. Please cite: 'Ondersteuning MENA groepen'. Thanks!

*MENA (Middle-East and North-Africa) is the name CBS uses for this work.



Treasurer – M/F

Income and expenses. Budget, annual balance, bills. Treasurer as part of the board. Do you like to be busy with numbers?

Do you have passion to contribute in this way to CBS Netherlands? If so, we would like to come in contact with you, because we are looking for a new treasurer. Do you like to have more information? Send us an email or give us a call, also if you would like a job description.



Leaders' retreat – looking back

In the beginning of October 29 women gathered for a 2-day leaders' retreat, with the theme 'Spiritual wardrobe'. Tineke Groot gave us insight out of God's Word: how God dressed us humans, already the first beginning, for battle against sin, and how this already pointed to the Lord Jesus. From Ephesians 6 she lead us through the spiritual wardrobe which we can put on daily. It's all hung ready for us!



Leaders were equipped in 'communication'. Daniëlle Stemmer (Coaching Station), gave us some theory in the processes of what's happening when we communicate. Everybody has his own strength in this. We were put to work to discover out of which communication profile we operate. Every profile has something to offer, and like the Bible says: we need each other! Use the different gifts of everybody. A quote which was printed on the bookmark we received said: Maak je niet DIK – Denk in kwaliteiten. (It's a Dutch expression, but translated something like: TIQ – Think in qualities.)

The program was full and varied. Also a refresher session was given about how to make the lecture for your group. The new CBS bookmark with all the attention points is a handy and practical tool. Step by step you are led by the process of doing this. Different groups have, after the conference, practiced this process at home again with their leaders' teams, but in more rest and with more time. We got several positive responses!

On top of this the nice conference center, the good food, and the beautiful weather made it to a special treat. There was time for fellowship, a private talk or a short hike with others, all valuable aspects for our leaders in CBS.

*Do you have questions about anything you read in this Newsletter, please let us know, we love to tell you more.

*Don't you want to receive this Newsletter anymore? Send us an email and we delete your data from our files.