



Silence ... restlessness ... peace

December 2020

Dear CBS friends,

What a special year, AD 2020! Since March -and still today- COVID-19 has a hold of us. Suddenly there was silence, and then ... it got even more quiet. For some a period of forced, but pleasant rest in all the hustle and bustle of everyday life. For others it quickly became less enjoyable and gave a lot of extra busyness or loneliness and therefore unrest. Our own anxiety can express itself in many ways, such as in fear, uncertainty, doubts, sadness, loss and worries.

We now live in the Advent season. A time of preparation for the Christmas Child, which has come, and in His glory will come again. We are called to reflect about this great miracle. God became human, through the birth of our Lord Jesus, and came to bring peace and rest to all of us.

The rest (peace) the Christ child brings, can handle all our anxieties. This, because we know He is Immanuel: God with us! Let's try to be still and let ourselves be filled with this rest and His promise!

I like to wish all of you rest and peace, in this time and through the miracle of Christmas.

On behalf of our team, and together in Him,
Wilma Aalbersberg
Director Community Bible Study Netherlands

'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.'

Matthew 11:28 NIV

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Kaart gemaakt door freepik

Lithuania – CBS outside the Netherlands

A CBS Study Guide has the 'Questions to prepare at home', the 'Commentaries', and enough space to write things down.

The last page, the inside of the back cover, has up till now been a blank page. As of January 1st, every Study Guide will have here information about CBS in another (European) country. After all, we are part of an international organization! That's why we like to tell you a bit about the CBS ministry elsewhere.

Every country has his own culture, challenges and opportunities. Reading about this and in this way get connected with our brothers and sisters using the same Bible study materials as we do. We can pray for them when we meet in our own groups. Experiencing a part of 'community' international. We hope you will be as enthusiastic as we are to hear from the ministry in the various countries.

Every six months a different country will be put in the spotlight. We start with Lithuania.



New PR coordinator – may we introduce:

My name is Armanda Hesta. Together with my son (18), I live in Heiloo. Since last year I participate in a CBS group in town. This Bible study material has an instructive method, gives deep insight in what you study, and let it stick well insight you.

How I became a Christian: I was the youngest of 3 in our family, and the only one who, at a young age, was fascinated by the Jesus stories I saw on TV. Due to the disease of my mother we got into occultism. I was looking for someone who could heal her, but she died at a young age. My search for insight and wisdom got deepening in the occult way of life. Until I hit a wall, lost everything I had and was left behind with only my son.

‘The Passion’ with Mel Gibson, showed me the work of the devil, which I recognized in my own life. God showed me in an image my situation: like a child totally mutilated and broken. Rational I dared to choose for Jesus, He became the bridge to the Light. I didn’t have to go back to the darkness. After that I saw the image of a girl, completely healed from the inside, and FREE.

God was always with me in my life, also when I left His path. But He brought me back. In 2017 I had to go through the door, the narrow road, which was illuminated by the Light at the end of the road. The way, leading me to the promised land of abundant milk and honey.



I am self-employed: Life/Mental coach, Image stylist and Portrait photographer. This for businesses, which gave me also marketing experience, as well as for individuals. With my skills I like to support CBS Netherlands in the PR.

Through my work I hope to reach many people to get as much passion for God as I have!

‘Together Online’ Group – wherever you are!

For almost 9 months, the corona virus has been affecting many areas of our lives, we often ran and run into obstacles, but ... a positive aspect is that we have discovered that you can also have contact with others who do not live in your area or even can do something together. For example: Online Bible Study!

A lot of existing groups do meet this way now. Via Zoom, Skype or another tool, participants ‘meet’ for their CBS Bible Study.

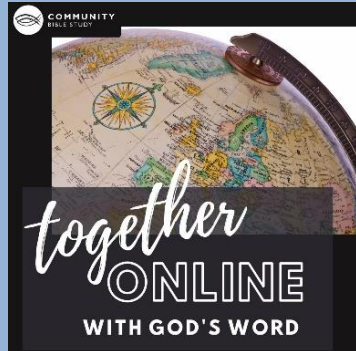
CBS International has further developed this concept: ‘Together Online’ was launched. Instead of group members living close to each other, this is a group of people who speak the same language (literally). This gives new opportunities!

Further reading on next page ...



... In the Netherlands this can mean that participants can live anywhere in the country and form a group together if there is not (yet) a CBS group in their vicinity. English speaking people can start an international group this way, with even members from abroad.

As a start for the 'Together Online' groups a new version of 'The Bible: Gods Amazing Book' is made with accompanying video's, with Dutch sub titles, with each lesson (6).



This study is also a good start for people who don't know much about the Bible yet. By everyone preparing at home, and later on in the Online discussion group with the video, each will discover, hear, and understand more about the Bible.

Do you like to know more about this, or do you know people who like to be part of an Online Bible study group, with a good structure and content, please contact us.

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

- Do you no longer wish to receive this Newsletter?

Send us an email and we will remove your address from our database.

Conference retrospect 'Allow differences' (1)

We look back at an inspiring and instructive digital conference via Zoom, at November 21. Of course we rather had met 'live', but with the 30 men and women we had a good mixed audience.

Reverent Jelle de Kok spoke from Romans 14-15 about dealing with differences. Differences in the interpretation of our faith can lead to tensions and to condemnation of each other. When talking about some precarious subjects we often start with the differences and can't connect to each other. Some of those subjects may be: baptism, what kind of church, Spiritual gifts, marriage, role of women, worship songs, etc.

If we start with the attitude of honoring and worshipping God, then there can be differences. Do we act in a Christ like way, or do we act in our own way? This means: having consideration with others, don't be offensive, serve each other, and accept each other. Talk about how to translate God's rules to your lives of today. Open your heart to each other, and listen! Take a critical look at your own thoughts too: are they perhaps too black and white?

In summary: Talk to each other starting from within (Jesus Christ), outwards (the other)!

We talked a bit further about this in small digital groups and questions were, after a break, answered by pastor Jelle.



Conference retrospect 'Allow differences' (2)

Jan Groot visualized 'Allow differences' with different stones. For example a cobble stone: referring to a serving attitude. These stones pave a way to travel on. Some people are serving in your (church) community: (host M/F, sexton, etc.). As you serve, serve 'as for the Lord', with joy.

Another stone: a flint, it is very sharp; usable to make axes and knives. These are the 'sharpeners', they can be very firmly say things like: this is what the Bible says, you have to act in this way. We need such people to keep us on our toes. The way a message is delivered, is indeed important. Proverbs 13:14 says: The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life.



After some more stones, Jan showed a picture of a wall of a church in Andijk. It is made of stones of different sizes, shapes, sometimes too hard baked or with chipped pieces. But together they form this beautiful wall carrying the church. This is the way we as humans can look to each other too, interact with each other and built together, this with Christ's love.

After this we also talked in small digital groups about which stone spoke to us the most.

We look back at a good digital conference and thanked God for this day.

*Hopefully we really can
'meet' again in AD 2021!*