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

Titus 2:11 NIV translation

**Light and Hope**

'Can you give me some light here?' 'At last light at the end of the tunnel!' Twice the word light: light that makes you see again and light that gives hope.

We look forward to Christmas, the celebration of God's Son who is born, bringing salvation to all people. He is the Light that wants to enlighten us on our path of life. A path that is not always easy to walk. How can we long for that light in the distance ...

The Christ Child Jesus has already walked the road, from the manger to the cross, and is Home again. His Light wants to enlighten us on our path of life in order to go our way together. His promise to us is a safe Homecoming. Let us therefore take heart and keep our eyes on Him, our Savior.

On behalf of our team, wishing you blessings and joy for Christmas and in A.D. 2022

Wilma Aalbersberg – Nationaal Coördinator



Photo © Stan White – Christmas star stained glass window First United Methodist Church in Reno

**Europe Web Conference:**

**'Upward & Onward' while 'Following Jesus to New Heights'**

On D.V. Friday evening, March 11, 2022 (19:00 – 21:00 NL time) will be the opening of this which is accessible for everyone. In addition to the speaker, there will be a 'mountain hut' for each country to pray together, so also for the Netherlands.



Would you like to get to know CBS more broadly and pray for the Netherlands? Put on your and be welcome!

All groups will receive more information in January. The lecture will be in English, you can pray in Dutch or you can just be present and pray silently.

If you don't participate in a CBS group and you like to join us on Friday evening March 11, let us know!



### **Impression of CBS group Leusden**

For many years we have been a group of women, aged between 35 and 75, who meet once every fortnight. We are an interesting and close-knit group.

If there are practical things that need to be arranged, a message is placed in our group App and a solution is always found. This can be from walking the dog for someone to driving for a hospital visit.

We come together through the love of and love for our Lord. Together we study the Bible and are guided by what it says. Due to our different (church) backgrounds, we often have good and lively conversations.



Pre-Corona group picture

It is fascinating and instructive how the Light can fall on the subjects in the study. There is space and respect for the thoughts of the other, looking from our different angles.

We sympathize with each other by sharing joy and sorrow. So there are always prayer points, which we pray for together.

This season we are studying the book of Job. Why Job? We cannot answer this question yet completely. We are curious on the one hand, but also a bit wary of the many miseries that Job had to endure. What attracts us to this Biblical figure, did Job really live? What does God want to tell us through Job? Due to circumstances we have only just started this study. We proceed with this study with confidence, knowing that the God who cared for Job, and loved him so, will be there for us too!

Jenny Veenendaal en Johanna Oost

**JIJ  
???  
V/M**

### **Looking for: Training Coordinator**

Are you enthusiastic about the CBS studies and would you like to volunteer as a trainer? Then we are looking for you!

We provide training to support the leaders of the groups, for example in the task of discussion leader or how to make and give a Biblical practical teaching. Our training materials are provided by the European leadership team.

You become part of our national team (all volunteers), in which each has its own spearhead task, such as conferences, prayer, training, etc.

If you like more information, check out our website and contact us!



### **Review Web Conference of November 6 – Freedom after the silence**

Between 10 AM – 1 PM we met digitally on this Saturday.

The day was opened by our National Coordinator, Wilma Aalbersberg, reading from Exodus 13 and 14. It was precisely in the desert that God showed himself, leading the way and protecting His people. Faith and trust were sorely tested, but God showed His care, again and again. A quiet period can also test us like a desert. Moses kept calling on God: an example for us. Moses also accepted help from fellow humans. Your group members can support you during your difficult period.



**Arie-Jan Mulder spoke about 'Silence'.** He showed us through some biblical characters what silence is and how it can be functional. Jesus often withdrew to pray, He needed to meet His Father for His work on earth. The prodigal son, with an enforced silence between the pigs, discovered the father's place in his life.

We are now also in a forced silence, let's use that time to do something good with it. Arie-Jan gave us tips on how and where we can consciously seek silence: find peace to learn from Jesus / meditation, listen and look at sounds around you, e.g. the rain, don't see the waiting time for your bus or train as 'lost time', in conversations... listen.

**Rev. Alrik Vos spoke about 'Freedom'.** When are you really free? What is true freedom? Alrik distinguished two freedoms: freedom from ... and freedom to ...

Freedom from... oppression, coercion, restrictions. Israel had to let go of slaves after 7 years and that was not allowed empty-handed! Jesus came to give us ultimate freedom. Freed from evil, sin, suffering and death. God gives that freedom, but it is sometimes difficult to live in that freedom. Our life patterns also cause lack of freedom for others.

Freedom to... is an inner freedom. We are called to be free. What do we do with that? Jesus gave up His freedom, out of love for us, to serve us. But, isn't serving exactly unfreedom? Not at all, because curtailing your freedom means more freedom for others. If it's only about your freedom, that's a lack of love. Freedom without love is only half freedom. Christ has set us free... out of love... to serve.

After both speakers there were small groups discussions about questions prepared by the speakers, and we had a short central feedback.

The evaluations afterwards showed that it was an informative and successful conference.

Annet Boersma, chairperson / Conference Coordinator