



# Van Opstal news....

November 2011

Dear Friends and family!

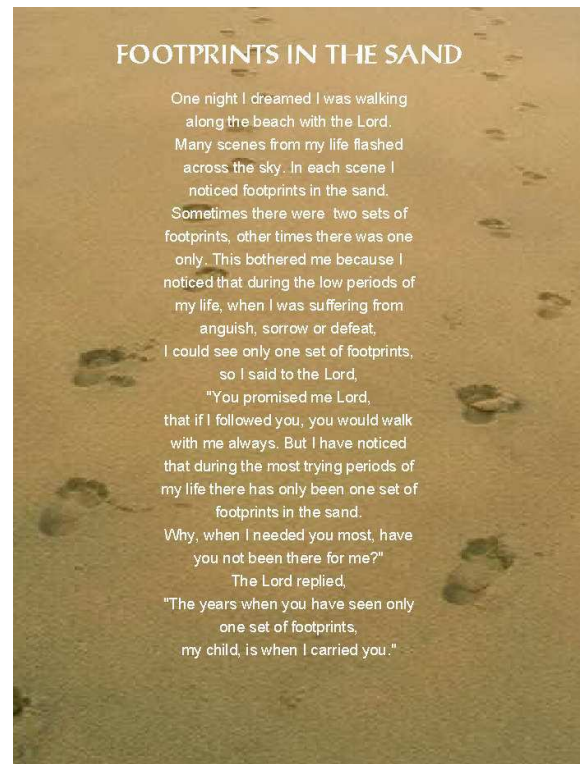
Wow, in less than a month we will be celebrating Christmas again! This year went by so fast. The year 2011 has been a very hard year for us as a family and for

our relatives in both the States as in Holland. The sudden passing of Jill's brother Rick was of course a terrible shock for all of us. Please continue to pray for his family. Also the illnesses of Paul's sister Joke and niece Anna were not expected, hard to go through, but God has performed miracles. We want to thank you for all of your prayers and (extra) support during this year. The following well-known poem has certainly become a fresh reality for us.

We know that we are/were not the only ones going through hard times and struggles. Many of you have had to deal with losses and illnesses. We pray for all of you that the comfort of the Heavenly father will also be very present to you as you go through the valley of death and/or sickness.

## LAR FELIZ

It has been a good year for Lar Feliz. It looks like we can close the year financially even. This with a lot of hard work of doing campaigns, but also with help and support from many of you. We have had several businesses come in and help us renovate. This year we were able to completely renovate the older boys home, the pool, soccer field and we are in the last stages of renovating the old baby house into the new house for the younger girls.



We want to wish you all a wonderful Christmas. Jesus is the reason for the season!! We pray that 2012 will be a year filled with blessings, health, joy and laughter for you!

It is wonderful to be able to create real home for them. A home with a lot of personal touches and enough space is something we all need. Being able to put a lot less children in one home is a blessing for all. It means that the monitor will be able to give more personal attention to the children which results in calmer kids.

As we shared in last updates, a wonderful church has come along side Lar Feliz and is really investing in the lives of the children and teen-agers. They come in and help us with a weekly study for the boys and every Saturday and Sunday they use our van to come and pick up those that want to go to church. What a blessing! Pray for us and our teens!

The school year is coming to an end. We have about 5 kids graduating at the project, so we have lots of graduations and party to go to. Elisa is also graduating this year. She wants to go and study at Cedarville College in Ohio starting august 2012. She wants to start studying biology with the possibility of becoming a Vet. Of course a lot needs to happen before that so we would appreciate your prayers for the whole application process. The plan is to take her to America in July of next year.

Jeremy also passed to the next year, so he will have two more years before graduation. He wants to do something with computer, which of course we already knew since the first time he laid eyes on a computer.

## Holland here we come!!

We are so excited because on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December we will be flying to the Netherlands to visit our family, friends and church. It will have been almost 4 years since we visited as a family. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January we will be flying back to Brazil. Pray for us!

### Prayer points....

- Prayer for our 62 children and staff as we prepare for Christmas. Many kids will go home to family or a foster family. Pray for a meaningful Christmas.
- Pray for our trip to the Netherlands. The Lord provided a house and a car for us to use. We still need the money for the tickets! (4270 dollars)
- 11 children are in the final phase of adoption. Pray for a quick ending of the process and wonderful families for the children.
- If you want to send a tax-deductable gift you can send it to: The Gospel house, 14707 Alexander Rd, Walton Hills, 44146 Oh. The check needs to be made out to the Gospel house church with on the memo that the gift is for the Van Opstal Family.

