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Serving under the Sea

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Dear praying friends,



On August 1 we got our new Car. This car is called a Ford Escape in the US; here it is known as a Kuga. We are really enjoying it, especially the higher SUV instead. It is a plug-in-hybrid, and it is amazingly economical. We plug it in several times a week, and so far, that has nearly all been solar panel free electricity. We drive it a lot in town, so that is all electric. We have taken some longer trips, and then the battery lasts about 50 miles and switches to the slightly noisier gas engine. We are grateful to the Lord for leading us to a dealership, that gave us a good deal on the car, and a free loaner (2024 Ford Focus wagon) from early May until August 1!



I have had opportunity to preach in several churches, several times since June. A new small church plant without a pastor asked me to preach 13 times from June 2025 until November 2026! We had hoped to have our 3-day DVBS (City Kids) during the last week of Summer Break, but the Lord had other plans. Our church' 48-year-old pianist (his name is Christian), died in his sleep unexpectedly after a long, strange sickness the week before DVBS. His funeral had to take place on the final day of VBS, and everybody who was helping with the VBS wanted to attend the funeral. Daniel and Heather were very busy with the prep for the funeral and comforting the widow and the two teen girls, and two adult kids, one of them recently married. We cancelled all but Tuesday's session. Nobody outside of church knew that, but still only four children showed up, and they left after a few minutes. I suppose we need to re-think this outreach. Daniel preached a great Gospel Message of Hope and forgiveness to the 350 people who attended the funeral. Most of them were either unchurched colleagues, or (unsaved) Dutch Reformed relatives and neighbors. All who spoke, talked about Christian's faith in Christ alone. I got to play guitar with Daniel, a man from our church on bass guitar, and Luke (our grandson) on violin. We sang some of the most meaningful songs in our repertoire. Daniel mentioned last month that the Live Stream of the funeral

has been viewed 7000 times!

After camp Crissie and I settled into a summer routine of working on some around the house projects postponed for too long. I think everybody recognizes that phrase. Since our car is bigger, it won't fit in the garage – well, we can drive it in but then can't open the doors of the car. So, we did a lot of work organizing and cleaning out the garage to use it for storage. We found a lot of stuff that we moved here but now we decided don't need. We have taken some of it to the dump, and the rest I need to take pictures of, and put it on the Dutch equivalent of eBay. Our grandson, Joel, helped Oma sand and paint the wooden shed in our yard. At the end of September, we booked a 10-day vacation in “our favorite bungalow park” about 1.25 hours from home and just relaxed!



During our vacation we had a Children's Camp BBQ and Evaluation. It was fun to see everybody again. One of the women is now clearly pregnant and won't be in camp for a few years (sigh). We are so grateful that the Lord keeps giving us an excellent team of people. They are a fun group, following the Lord in their daily lives, and longing to “give back” how the Lord blessed them in camp. Yes, most of them are former campers, or have been leaders for more than 15 years. Evaluating what we do and especially how we can do it better, made me want to have camp again next month. Not realistic, I know.

I am working on figuring out what course to give next. I have not offered the course on “What does the Bible Teach about Speaking in Tongues” for some time. There are several folks in our church who have indicated they would like to take it, and several new people who should take it. This is an 8-week investment of 2½ hours every other Saturday morning (or some evening). Contrary to the Biblical Interpretation course I teach (13 weeks – 3 hours), there is next to no homework for this one. I would probably start in January 2026 so I can get it done before the Summer. We'll keep you posted.

Even when there isn't a lot going on in the area of ministry during the summer, we still need your prayers. We did both have birthdays in October, and we must reluctantly acknowledge that we **are** “pushing 70” – we are 68 and 69 now. There are always medical needs – I need a laser treatment on a nasty varicose vein on my left leg. So far that has resulted in 5 trips to the hospital for exams and reports. It is only a 5-minute drive. Other than that, there is nothing major going on, just a lot of 6- or 12-month checkups for both of us – all good reports. We appreciate you thanking the Lord with us for His blessings and bringing some of these matters to our Lord in prayer.

In His Service,
David and Crissie