

October 2021

Dear friends,

Herthaaaaa!!! My dog ran off at a frantic pace. There was no way to stop her. For the second time she was on the farm and she obviously was starting to feel more free. Very nice, but so free was not the intention! We were walking and passed the pond for the cows, which is about a hundred meters from my house. And there she suddenly saw two great white herons, a moorhen and some beautiful dark-gold colored birds. The temptation was too strong, and I could shout all I wanted, but she went for it at lightning speed. She just didn't realize that her targets were in the middle of the water and.....splash! Under she went. As quickly as she dived in, she was out. And then she listened, because she really hates getting wet.. That was really funny! Such a shame that you don't have a camera with you at these moments.

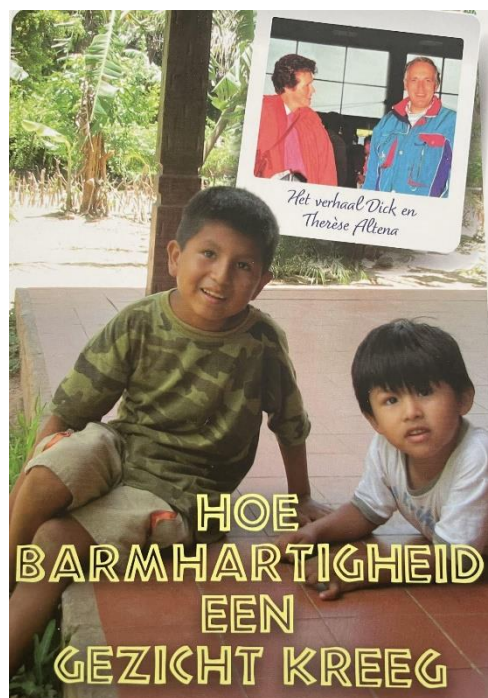


Yes folks, I've been back in Bolivia for two months now. I had a very good time in the Netherlands and I am very grateful for the reception I received from so many of you. First in my home congregation, the Morgenster in Urk, and also in the very loyal churches in Zeeland. In addition, of course, by my daughters and their families. I spent a lot of time with them this time. It had been three years since we had last seen them, and a lot had happened. They had to miss their

daddy and grandpa without really having been able to say goodbye. That's hard to accept....

But we also had a lot of fun together and we talked for hours. I even went to France for a week with our eldest daughter Esther. That was a real vacation for both of us. In retrospect I was very happy that we did that. Although I wasn't aware of it at first, going everywhere on my own in the Netherlands for the first time was quite emotional and exhausting for me.

Two weeks before my furlough ended, there was a beautiful moment. I was given the opportunity to present a book that I wrote about the life of Dick and me and the origin of Misión Timoteo. That was a great moment for me. So far, the book is available in Dutch only. But who knows...maybe it will be available in English/Spanish in the future?



Back in Bolivia I was talking to Jose Miguel in front of my house in the afternoon when we suddenly smelled smoke. They had built a fire on the adjacent property to burn waste. Not very smart considering the weather conditions: there was a very strong wind, causing the fire to grow quickly. We immediately called the big boys, rolled out all the garden hoses we could find, connected them and then...everyone, just spray! Meanwhile, Jose Miguel called the fire brigade, who showed up when everything was extinguished. Welcome back to Bolivia.



A week and a half later I was invited to a wedding by our own Guadalupe, who lived in the children's home with her sister Isabel for about eight years. There were also several old acquaintances, such as Elisabeth and Eliezer, one of the first couples, who worked with us for eight years. Great to see them again. Lupe was in their house at the time. And to whom did our Lupe get married? It was Anthonie, a true Dutchman! Incredible, isn't it? He had first met her



when 'World Servants' visited the children's home, years ago. She was 11 years old at that time and he was almost 18. The years passed by, but he could not forget that little girl with those big eyes. It turned out to be a beautiful wedding, where his parents and sister were also present. Her brother led her to the altar and the pastor of her church told their very romantic history. A history that clearly shows how God leads people and gives them the strength to persevere, to have patience and to show true love as written in 1 Cor. 13 verses 4-8:

Padrinos plan: Sponsor a unit

In the children's home, we have children who all go to school, need daily food, clothing and medical care. These are very vulnerable children and we want to offer them a home.

We are looking for people who sponsor a unit. In each unit up to 10 children live with parents (or two "aunts") that take care for them. In this way, we simulate as best as possible a family situation and we can give these children new opportunities to develop themselves.

The sponsorship amount is USD 28,- per month.

Will you join us? Thank you in advance. Are you considering becoming a sponsor?

Please, contact Miranda (see colophon)

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

Everyone was very moved. How happy we are for them! Guadalupe will stay here for a while to finish her studies, but will travel to the Netherlands in December to join Anthonie and then they'll start their new life together.

Lately I keep getting notes from children who used to live at Misión Timoteo. They'd like to visit again, now that they know I'm back. Heartwarming for me, and I'm curious about their stories. Most of them have been through a lot after they have left the home. We sometimes get something via Facebook, but of course that only shows a small part of what really goes on in their lives. I was also asked to give a marriage course to the manager of the farm and his 'wife'. Quite a challenge, but I know the Lord will guide me in this too. I will need a lot of patience, because their time division is 'not always disciplined' to say the least.



During my stay in the Netherlands, a delegation from Zending & Gemeente also visited me. Very pleasant, but also a bit painful. Quite a few young missionaries have joined the organization, so it is time for the 70+ people to make way for them, at least in the organization. As a result, they receive more attention and space and the financial situation may

also become more attractive for them. Of course I will continue to participate in Z&G's social activities, such as the missionary conferences, but the finances are no longer arranged through them. These should go directly to the missionaries or to their foundation, in my case to Misión Timoteo. Although I had seen this coming, it was hard to swallow on top of all the other emotions. Sometimes I really wonder how God is looking at these things. In the end, He sent Moses out when he was 80, and Joshua was not the youngest either when he took the baton from Moses. And God just kept providing and guiding them.

In the meantime, the pandemic is not over here either. The children are still studying via Zoom on their computers donated by you. Dear people, we are so happy with that! And they are doing extremely well, as their interim results were above average. We are really proud of our children. And also of the aunts, who accompany them and constantly watch and assist them. This way they learn early on what teamwork is. It's actually quite funny how you can take advantage of such an unpleasant situation.

A few weeks ago some trees were pruned around my house and I suddenly have much more light and sun. That is why I am now much more enthusiastic to regularly spray the plants and the



grass (which has yet to come up). And of course Hertha, my dog, has to learn not to dig out plants or shrubs. In addition, we hope that the thieves who regularly invade the site do not smash right through it.

Yes, thieves! This is really becoming a big problem. The fence with netting that we put around the entire site years ago is due for a somewhat sturdier replacement.

We urgently need a wall around the entire site so that children and staff will feel safe again. Because at the moment they are quite scared and don't dare to go outside in the evening. Sometimes, when the dogs bark and Jose Miguel, the director, goes to take a look, he takes some guys to inspect the grounds. But then they stay anxiously close to him. Especially because crime has taken on much harder forms here. Weapons are used much more often than in the past in thefts and robberies of people on the street. This is not a nice situation and that is why we decided to make the project "Wall". The total of the wall will be five hundred meters long, but we have divided it into pieces of fifty meters. And we hope to get a huge response. Maybe five, ten, twenty or however many meters you want to cover. It will be great if the children can feel really safe again!

I hope you have been able to enjoy a little bit through this epistle and the photos. God bless you for sympathizing, think along, donate, and pray for all of us here at Misión Timoteo!

Your Therese.

Sponsor a brick

Please, help us to build a wall to protect the Misión Timoteo children and staff. We need a *lot* of bricks to build this wall. Will you do your part? We would love your support. Any amount of money is welcome. When you transfer money, please mention the word "Wall". Bank account nr: see colophon.



Colophon

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If you want to financially support Therese for her personal livelihood, you can transfer a donation to her private account number:
NL 96 RABO 0351185178.
Thank you in advance

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