

It is with a bit of a shock that I realise how long it has been since I last wrote. I apologise for the delay. I am currently sitting in one of my favourite places by a small pond listening to a multitude of



birds including a woodpecker and a cuckoo! I always plan to come here more often but other things get in the way.

What other things?

After Christmas I began my new role of **Academic Dean**, enjoying the challenge and the joys of the role. I learned very quickly how useful it was to have a bullet journal as I was sometimes going from one meeting the next... My Bujo is my brain! I learned about faculty development and visa options for our staff, of ideas for a library renovation and interviewing possible new faculty.

In my role on the **leadership team**, we had a morning of prayer in the home of one of our staff- a good time to get to know each other but also to wait on God and His thoughts for our school. We met with a few folks interested in working with us in the area of Business for Transformation. So many new people and ideas - interesting but also challenging alongside the "normal" work of school and schedule.

But then, what's normal?

The week that our internees left on their 6-week Internship, was the week that plan-busting Covid came to call.

Most of the second-year students were able to leave, but a few could not or decided not to because of the implications for them and their families. Even then, a good number of students had to return, some within a few days, others after week or two, a few went directly into quarantine in their placement country, and others were able to remain for a few weeks. As I write, we have two units still "stranded" in their placement countries, though this morning we had the scheduled Welcome Back service! For the first-year students: their Spring Mission team placements were cancelled and they were given the option of staying in the college or returning home - if that were possible. Some students, especially families, have given up their homes in order to come to Cornerstone! We had about a half of the students who remained on campus and practice social distancing. Needless to say, our academic program needed to change quickly to meet these new needs, and the faculty team responded wonderfully! God had placed just the right people with the right ideas and abilities in place to implement the new requirements.



Covid also left an impression on our staff. One of my colleagues was placed in an artificial coma to help his body recover - he is at

home still dealing with the after effects of that - rehab for both lungs and limbs. At the same time, I also had a bout with the virus, from fever to coughing to breathlessness - truly nasty symptoms 🤒 Recovery is long, with a lack of energy and general feeling of weakness continuing for a few weeks. Thank you for all those who prayed for me and asked after me. It is

Re: Nata

name of latin origin meaning "born again"

a blessing to be surrounded by such prayer warriors!

As with many others, we remain in limbo how things will develop - will we get all our students back in one place at one time before graduation mid-July? What will school look like for the rest of the year? How do we plan for next year? Questions which the Lord knows we need answers on. But in the meantime, I rest in the knowledge that He knew before we did about all this, and we can wait in dependence on Him for bringing light and smoothing the path (Is 42:16!!) Needless to say, we pray for a normalizing of the situation.

Praise for:

- health! I caught a cold in January and had been coughing until mid- March... at which time I got Covid. This is the first time since January that I have felt fully healthy!
- For the right people in place who were able to take over both positions in faculty and leadership team while I was sick.
- Acceptable and practical course options as replacements for the internship and Spring mission placements - digital evangelism and discipleship (check out <https://www.globalrize.org/> maybe God can use YOU here!?!)



Prayer for:

- decisions for the rest of this school year. This evening we heard from the Dutch government that universities may not go back until possibly

mid-June or July... but gatherings of 30 people are ok. Further information to follow next week.

- To plan for the next school year.
- To plan for a summer holiday or no?

Thank you for prayers and thoughts, for Whatsapp and Facebook messages and written cards, for financial support - all these things help me to remain here in Beugen serving God in these weird and wonderful times -which HE knows full well! So thankful for you all!

Blessings
from Beugen,

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