

MERRY CHRISTMAS

and a Joyful New Year from the Van Wijngaarden Family in Scotland



With almost a whole year behind us, we are grateful to send you this Christmas greeting from Scotland. For the ones that have followed our journey from the beginning, you might be aware that this is our fifth country we are living in within a decade. As it was never the plan at the beginning of this journey to live in more than one country, let alone five, and thus we are glad to have arrived. Now one may question if we did not arrive before; or what it means to arrive? As an answer we would say we have come to places many times, and made it our home, yet this time we have come, and (as Francis Schaeffer once preached) unless the Lord extrudes us, we believe we are here to stay, and that is an arrival in which we feel more than ever ready to start putting our roots down. Now before this sounds romantic in any way, do not be mistaken. For instance, as many of you know that not long after our arrival last summer, we were evicted (due to the landlord wanting to sell the property), and had to move again already, which makes it far from easy to find our feet. Yet, in the midst of this all we know the dust will settle, we know that the Lord is with us (Matthew 28:20), and for that we praise Him! We hope you know this to be true for yourselves, and thus with Christmas may be reminded that Jesus once came, but just as well can rejoice that He will come again.

Aurora Borealis (or Northern Lights)

Did you know that here in Scotland one might see the Aurora Borealis? Although it is far from every day, and we still have to see it for a first time, we do expect it to happen in due time. In a way that might be the same for what is on the horizon for the ministry and ourselves, as some things are clear, and other things are to be expected, but yet unseen... What is clear is to fulfil the mission as pioneers in church ministry with a particular focus on the means of hospitality, teaching, and equipping. And although we are mainly engaged in the local context, we also co-founded and co-lead the European Church Planting Forum ([click here](#), and start at 19:10 mins for a presentation Andreas did earlier this year in St. Louis, MO). But what is less clear yet are the exact details of how to fill in the details for the long term. We knew this would be the case in particular in the first year as it is part of pioneering, but it has nevertheless been (and is) an intense period. It also means that 2026 is expected to be a pivotal year for the ministry as well as for us as a family. Luca will be 17 very soon, and Sem turned 14 recently, which are the years of the deep dive in the years of adolescence, and all the changes that come with that. Anyhow, we already reached the end of the greeting, but when you receive this and read it so far, please drop us a few lines to tell us how you are doing, as we love to hear from you (when able).

We wish you a Merry Christmas, and a joyful 2026!

Greeting you all with the warmest regards,

Andreas, Katharine, Luca & Sem van Wijngaarden

Ways to be involved:

You can become a partner in the ministry! If that is of interest, send us an email: Fam.Van.Wijngaarden@icloud.com

PRAYER SUPPORT

We would love you to pray with us and will inform you with several prayer letters throughout the year.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

In the **USA**, we are part of Presbyterian Mission International (PMIweb.org/avw.php). You can choose from the following options to donate tax-deductible:

- join the Monthly Support Team by filling out the EFT form (PMIweb.org/EFTformPMI2020) and sending it in;
- mail a check and include to write "Van Wijngaarden" on the memo line and send it to PMI, 12330 Conway Rd, St. Louis, MO 63141;
- or see the following link (PMIweb.org/donations.php) for alternative ways of financial giving.

In **Nederland** zijn we aangesloten bij de ANBI-Stichting Samen op de Bres en kan er belastingaftrekbaar worden gedoneerd. Dit kan worden gedaan via deze link: <https://web.samenopdebres.nl/Support?a=3&o=2417>, en biedt de optie voor een eenmalige gift alsook op maandelijkse basis.