Dear friends,



Every time I feel the unevenness of a fork in my mouth, I smile at the memory of Gj using the **kitchen cutlery in the garden**, or as a tool to open things – and I wonder if any of my friends also have husbands who, instead of taking the trouble to fetch a **real tool,** take the quick way out😊 - and we find our cutlery draw containing **bent forks** and **point-less knives?** 😊

At the time, it wasn't funny of course, but now the uneven teeth on the fork makes me smile, because "***Gj used this fork in the garden*** 😊"

Harmony came over to assess what caused the "flood," and a tripped earth leakage switch in my kitchen that left me with plugs not working. "*No problem to make us each a cup of coffee,"* me thinks, "*I'll just boil water on our gas stove*" – but now
the flame on the stove wouldn't ignite!

So, Harmony reminds me that I need the gas lighter to light it😊
OF COURSE I need the gas lighter but I didn't even THINK about it because it was nicely hidden away "from Gertjan😊"in the cupboard.

Harmony and I both packed out laughing at the memory of the day Gertjan re-discovered the gas lighter –
but this time he saw it as **a toy**.

The delight on his face as he walked around with his new found toy, "*clickety click, clickety click*" all over the house smiling each time as the flame popped up 😊

My husband must surely have been the **cutest dementia patient ever** 😊

Here is Harmony with the hidden "toy" 😊





It was my own choice to not leave Gertjan to go on holiday, or to take a break away from him.
There were times when I felt I was going to have a nervous breakdown, and I was spiritually, physically and emotionally so exhausted – but I knew I would not be able to relax if I left my husband suffering at home while I'm "having a good time."

And of course, MY WORST, was that on my return he would not know who I was☹

Many people didn't understand or agree with my choice – they had concern for my own personal survival – and I love them for that, but it was for me like asking a mother to leave her newborn at home and go away and have a holiday – I just couldn't.

BUT NOW I am wanting to go places and do things😊

Sonia took 7 of us chapel ladies in her bus on a road trip to Carmel via Kareedouw, George, Victoria Bay, Wilderness, Mossel Bay and we even had a 3-and-a-half-hour train ride from Hartenbos to Greatbrak River!



What made the trip special, and rather nostalgic, for me was that Carmel was the 1st place that Gj and I went to on holiday together with the kids in 1992.

As marvellous as a holiday is, isn't it funny that when you come back from holiday, you feel like **you need a holiday**😊?

And the "whole world" was waiting for me to do their hair when I returned 😊

CAPE TOWN IS CALLING ME 😊



CAPE TOWN

On the 24th of May, it will be a year since Gj's passing & I have **purely an emotional desire** to "come full circle" by going back to the Dolphin Beach Hotel in Bloubergstrand in Cape Town **in the middle of May,** stay in apartment 48 again for a week - to be there in the same place where I went to mourn and started my new season in life and learn how to live life on my own.

I'm praying that God will make it possible for me to do this, but it's a lot of money – that even if I found it – I would feel guilty to spend it on such a luxury that is **not a necessity**.

So, I'll wait on the Lord **to make a way – OR NOT**.



As Ps.31:15 says, "*My times are in Your hand* …"

I'd like to also use the time to finish my book – one needs undisturbed time to write, that doesn't happen much at home.

I'll let you all know in my next letter if I went, or will still go 😊

PASTOR SASHA

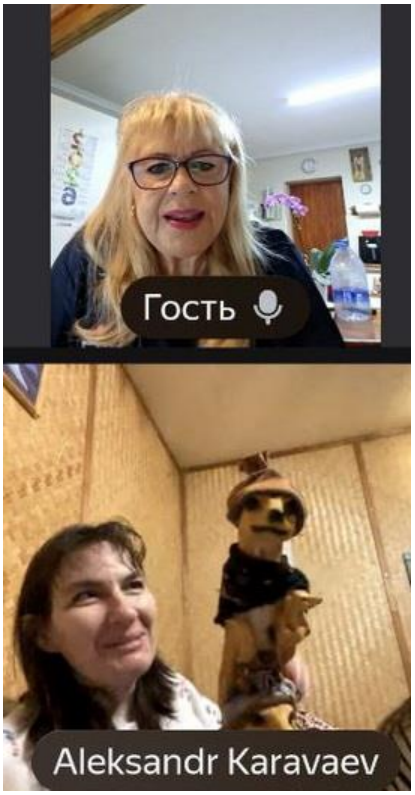


Many of you met Sasha and Galya when we brought them to South Africa in 2014.

It was the 1st time they'd ever flown in an airplane, swum in a swimming pool, seen mountains, the ocean or South African wild animals.

Can you imagine their wonderment?
The 24 days that they spent with us here was when I saw the most miracles of God in my life – DAILY.

They were our home from home, and our Russian family for the nearly 12 years that we spent as missionaries in Russia.



So it was with great sadness and shock that we received the news that he had a stroke and a large clot was removed from his brain.

Sasha went to be with Jesus at the young age of 56 about 8 weeks ago.

Galya and her daughter, Nadya video called me on whatsapp. I had my laptop open on "google translate" to help me minister to her with words of condolences and compassion.

Here she was showing me how she dressed the meerkat up that they bought here in SA. I wished I could go to her and give her the "withness" that one needs from close friends at a time such as this.

The church is continuing and seems strong – but because of the war, I can't send them money, and communication is not easy.

Gertjan and Sasha had a special bond of love and respect. No matter how "out of it" Gertjan was, when he heard Sasha's voice and saw him on the phone, he "came alive" and responded with smiles to his friend – Sasha would tell him what he meant to him with tears rolling down his eyes.

FRIEND ANDREW in Cape Town has had a 4th stroke in the space of several months – each time **returning to working immediately**.

My friend has survived major health attacks for years and his mind and his body need rest for a few months at least, **but rest doesn't pay the rent.**



We were "undone" at the severity of their situation – but the body of Christ has stepped up in prayer, and have rallied around to help in so many ways. Even in hard times, God is there, ever present through His children, - *And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honoured, all the members rejoice with it. 1Cor 12:26*

Thank you dear friends for giving me your time and attention.

Much love, Judy