

LETTER FROM ELDERS AND PASTORS

Crossroads was on the move in 2018. Quite literally, in April we moved into a temporary community centre, where we could stay for a year, trusting the Lord to provide a permanent place. In November, just in time, the Lord directed us to a building on the Bovenkerkerweg in Amstelveen. In December we were able to sign a contract trusting that the Lord would provide the finances. And through our community He did.

It has been truly an outpouring of generosity and God's amazing grace! As a community we raised enough to be in this building and have the same costs as we had in our temporary community centre. But as a great answer to prayer as the building has been, there's much more we encountered together.

We started the year by focusing our vision on "For the Sake of the Other" - the embracing part of encountering Jesus, embracing one another and engaging the world.

We invested time and energy in three key pathways for people in our community - the discipleship pathway, the care pathway and the leadership pathway.

We started a new set of courses in the discipleship pathway. As a follow up to the Alpha course we created the Starting Point course. And to go deeper after Starting Point we developed Grow1 and Grow2. We streamed these courses online to give people the opportunity to follow along individually or as a group from their own home or LIFEgroup.

For the leadership pathway we organized a leaders retreat in July. More than 40 leaders gathered for a great time of equipping and building community.

For the care pathway we built up and extended the Deacon Team and clarified the processes for finding care within Crossroads.

There were just a few staff changes in 2018, and by the end of the year we found ourselves with a young and wonderful team, shaped around the three areas of our vision and ready to take on 2019 with our theme "Engage the World".

Of course the fundraising had a big impact on the financial figures of 2018. As a community we raised a lot of money to buy the new community centre - and the staff team did a great job of keeping expenses under budget. However, it's clear that some of the regular giving that was budgeted went toward the building, which meant an operational deficit for the year.

The Crossroads community continued to support our missionaries with finances, prayer and relational support and experienced counsel. Teams were sent again to teach English in a setting designed to open up opportunities to share the story of Jesus, often with those who had never heard it before.

In the year ahead, may God give us grace to continue to encounter Jesus, embrace each other and engage with the world, all as a sign and expression of his gospel of redeeming grace and transforming love!

Many thanks for your partnership in our Crossroads community.

The Elder Board and the Leadership Team