

## Report of 2020 activities

We started out 2020 with the theme "rise up together". Although different than imagined, the theme could not have been more appropriate. What a challenging year, yet as we look back, we can say, as a church we really did rise to the occasion.

As we could not come together on Sunday mornings anymore our service team started to produce online content from day one, so we could continue to worship together and listen to God's word. First, they did so with limited knowledge and resources. But as the church rose to the occasion through giving, we were able to invest in better equipment and training resources so we could move from prerecorded services to live streaming. New teams were set up and trained to make this all possible, a small group of dedicated volunteers put their shoulders under this project. We are so thankful for these teams and for the church as a whole to keep supporting the ministry of Crossroads so we could keep growing in this new ministry area and even add € 25.855 to the continuity reserve, giving us an opportunity to rebuild a healthy buffer.

A compliment for the staff who showed tremendous perseverance, flexibility and resilience through all of the changes and uncertainty. All the work that went into setting up for services at the Amsterdome, what a blessing it was to be able to meet in person again even though it was only for a few weeks; and then again at Christmas creating so many opportunities for us to bless our neighbors, including sharing Christmas Eve goodie boxes when we had to again cancel the in-person service. In this way we managed to keep reaching out in the "real" world as well as reaching people online.

In November and December Paul and Johan visited the life groups online and we were so impressed by the stories we heard of groups meeting online and encouraging each other in these difficult times. Increasingly we also started meeting people online, that are part of a group but have never been to a service physically. Somehow God is still at work within Crossroads even when we just meet online. Somehow a whole new online mission field has opened up for us.

For our youth and children's ministry this year was especially challenging. The leaders have tried to provide online resources for the children and youth and an online place to meet. But whenever possible we organized physical meetings for them to hang out and be encouraged. It has been difficult and challenging though for these age groups to stay connected.

We pray that 2021 will be the year where we are able to meet physically again and celebrate community and relationships. In 2020 we have learned that to stay connected and to keep growing in faith, relationship is key, and we want to keep encouraging everyone to "layer" their relationships. From meeting with 3 people for accountability to meeting with a life group to study the bible to meeting regionally and get to know those who live near you. All the while coming on a Sunday to worship and listen to God's word.

Many thanks for your partnership in our Crossroads community.

The Elder Board