

New quinquennium new beginnings

We are starting a new series in which each newsletter we will focus on one of our unions. We have asked all of you to participate and in this issue we are presenting the **Netherlands Union Conference**. We hope this will help you with new ideas and motivate you. We look forward to each issue.

Madelon Comvalius has been married to Machlon for 19 years. They have two wonderful kids, Jordan is 13 years old and Jaylisa is 12.

Before she started working for the church she worked as a manager at a bank for quite a while. Five years ago she started working for the church as Children's, Women's and Family ministries director.



The biggest challenge for her is to deal with all the different responsibilities she has at work and to have enough spare time to be the wife and mother she wants to be.

The biggest joy for her is that she loves the diversity she has in her job. And she enjoys working with so many different people. For her it's a privilege to organise all kinds of events where children and teens, women and families experience the love of God and fellowship with each other.

Her favourite Bible text is from Deuteronomy 6:4-9. "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."



Teen Club

Most churches in the Netherlands only have a few teens (12-15 years old). As friendship is very important for youngsters, we have started to organise a monthly Teen Club! A club where teenagers from all over the Netherlands gather to meet and interact with each other on a Sabbath.

During the Teen Club we always engage in an interactive Bible study. We also play games, enjoy good food and in the evening we challenge the teens to take part in some awesome activities. For example: bowling, swimming and ice-skating.

The teenagers love it and look forward to the Teen Club every month. Around 50 teens join the Teen Club every month. We always end our season with a Teen Camp. This year the theme is: I belong! Do you?

Previous camp themes were: Free! and Move!



Kids in Discipleship

More and more churches in the Netherlands are implementing Kids in Discipleship. Every year our department provides a K.I.D. training. The last four years nine teams from different congregations attended the training. We even had a team from Antwerp, Belgium.

In 2015 Madelon Comvalius and her husband had the privilege to give a K.I.D. training on the island of Curaçao, where the people also speak Dutch. In a single weekend ten teams were fully equipped to implement Kids in Discipleship in their church!



Training

Once a year we organise a training event for all the Dutch children's ministry leaders and children Sabbath School teachers. This event empowers the teachers and gives them inspiration to continue their great voluntary work in their local church. Last year 135 teachers and leaders attended this training event.

The participants learn new songs and listen to an inspirational speaker. They also attend a variety of workshops. The workshops deal with a number of topics, such as Telling a Children's Story, Music and Creativity, organising a Children's Service, Dealing with Puberty, Messy church, Kids in Discipleship, and Coping with loss.

Our department also offers the attendants a shop where they can buy all kind of Christian materials for their local Sabbath Schools. We have a good stock of gifts for Christmas, craft materials, pencils, toys and many more.



TEC Children's Ministries News

News from the Netherlands

More pictures from the training



Kidzrally

For 15 years now, the Dutch children's ministries in the Netherlands has been organizing the Kidzrally for our elementary school children (6-12 years). This Sabbath is the highlight of the year for the children. A day full of happy smiles and loads of fun, where they learn about and experience stories from the Bible.

For instance, this year the theme was 'Noah'. The team built an Ark on stage, there was a play with actors and puppets, a big rainbow parachute, music and of course a theme song about Noah. In the afternoon the children could play and have fun. Envision it as a kind of huge messy church: there are crafts and a playground, and the children are divided into age groups.



TEC Children's Ministries News

News from the Netherlands

The children's ministry in the Netherlands encourages young people to develop their talents. We have many teens and youth in our volunteer team and we train them to use and develop their skills. During the programme we also provide opportunities for children to show their gifts and talents on stage. The children are always looking forward to hear what the next theme is, so they can dress up. For example: In 2015 the theme was Queen Esther and everyone came in their fanciest dress. Every year over 600 children and their chaperones come from every part of the country to enjoy this wonderful Sabbath together. A team of 80 volunteers are vital in making the Kidzrally an unforgettable experience.



TED Children's Ministries News

Day for parents

Raising kids can be quite a challenge. Raising kids as Christians in a non-Christian society is even a bigger challenge. To help parents we organise special days for parents.

Parents receive tips and tools they can use while raising their children. There are a lot of different workshops parents can choose from. For example: How Does a Teen Brain Works?, Being a Father is Cool!, Parenting a Child with Special Needs, Talking about God, Being a Single Parent, Sexuality etc. Around 50 parents attend these events.

