

**The Hennigs
Missions in Kanchanaburi Province
Thailand**

Newsletter 11 - 12 2019

Dear friends and prayer partners,

thank you for your interest, your prayers and your gifts. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a very good and safe year 2020. As we were busy with visa matters after our holidays in the Netherlands, only the letters sent by email will be in time this year. Letters sent by mail will probably arrive in January and then at least bring our best wishes for the coming year.

God became man in Jesus of Nazareth

That's what we're celebrating now at Christmas. Now let us think a little bit about what this means.

God as the cause of the universe

It seemed clear to many people in the 19th and 20th centuries that God was no longer needed as an explanation. This has changed dramatically. We know today that the whole universe had a beginning, and that space and time came into being with the universe. Our experience teaches us that everything that comes into being has a cause. This cause is outside of space and time, but it can act into space and time. Because time originated with the universe, there was nothing that existed before this cause, and therefore there was no cause of this cause.

Chance

It is becoming increasingly clear that the development of this world cannot be explained by mere coincidence. Chance plays a role, for example, in throwing a dice. With a good dice with 6 sides you expect that on average all 6 numbers are thrown equally often. There is nothing to be said against rolling the 4 twice or three times in a row. However, if you roll 100 times in a row a 4 with this die, you must assume that something is wrong with this die, especially if you roll a million times in a row and always get 4.

Fine tuning in physics

The basic properties of the particles that make up matter and the forces between them must be extremely precisely tuned for stars and planets to exist at all. For

example, the ratio of the gravitational force of the earth and the electrical force must be more precisely determined as 1 to a 1 with 40 zeros behind it. (For comparison: 1 % is 1 to 100, i.e. with 2 zeros, 1 per thousand is a one to 1 with 3 zeros behind). Another quantity, the space energy density, must have even an accuracy of 1 to a 1 with 120 zeros behind it, so that there can be planets at all on which life is possible.

Fine tuning of the galaxy, planetary system and planets

That a planet can exist on which life is possible is extremely unlikely. (You need the right size and type and the right environment of the galaxy, the right type of star and its right distance from the center of the galaxy, the right size of the planetary system, the right properties and distances of the individual planets, the planet with the right size and composition on an almost circular motion around the Sun, and you need a surprisingly large moon at exactly the right distance. By now more than 800 different properties of the Milky Way and planetary system are known, which have to be fine-tuned) The probability that such a planet can exist at all is less than 1 to a 1 with 173 zeros behind it.

(<https://www.reasons.org/explore/publications/facts-for-faith/facts>)

The origin of life through purely natural processes is impossible.

Intelligent planning becomes even more apparent in biology. Every living cell is a structure with tiny machines and transport systems that is more complicated than any human factory. Prof. James Tour, an expert in the assembling of molecules, found that without already existing living cells or their decay products, the construction of the basic components of a cell in the required purity and their assembly into a living cell is completely impossible without intelligent planning, even if one had any amount of time to do so, because many necessary compounds can only survive for days, hours or even minutes outside living cells, if they are not stored away under carefully determined conditions.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zU7Lww-sBPg&t=294s>).

Information in each cell

Every living cell contains 1000 times as much information inside as the Encyclopedia Britannica, a large encyclopaedia with 30 volumes. In our experience, there is only one source of information, namely intelligence. All attempts to explain the origin of this amount of information by blind coincidence have turned out to be absolutely hopeless.

God is the extremely powerful and intelligent creator of the world.

Whoever believes that from a meaningless and aimless movement of the smallest particles a self-consciousness person can arise, who can perceive and recognize something and is capable of purposeful action, believes in a very great miracle for which there is not the slightest explanation. Instead, it is much easier to believe that there are people with self-consciousness, because the cause of the whole universe

is a person with self-consciousness and will. This person is called God. God is thus the creator of the whole universe, stronger and more powerful than anything in it, and someone who knows everything.

God is good and loving.

And because there is an inkling in every person that there is good and evil, and everyone yearns deeply for the good, this means that God is really good. And that there is love in this world, where one selflessly wishes for the good of whom he loves and does good to the one whom one loves, can ultimately only be explained by the fact, that the God who created the world is love.

God, the Son

If God is love, then it follows that there are persons in God who love one another: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The New Testament tells us that it was God the Son, through whom the world was created, and who bears all things by the word of His power (Heb 1:3). Since this Son is the full expression of the nature of God the Father, He is also love. The essence of love is not to force anyone. Love desires a voluntary relationship of trust and voluntary obedience.

Decay and destruction in the world as a result of the rebellion against God

When God created this world, He had used powers to rule this world. These powers decided to be independent of God and thus subjected this world to death and destruction. God created man as a counterpart and gave him a shelter, the paradise, where he should learn to rule with God and finally rule the whole universe together with God. Because also man decided to live outside God's order, he also came under ruin and death, and also the whole creation suffers terribly from the decay to which it is still subjected.

God the Son became man.

God the Son, the sovereign Lord of all things, greater and more powerful than the entire cosmos, eternal, without beginning or end, with unlimited knowledge, came right into the midst of this misery. As a tiny child He came into the womb of a woman, His mother Mary. He became completely human and took all the limitations and dangers of being human upon Himself. He was dependent on the care of His parents, He had to learn to read and write and to study the Bible, and finally He had to take up a profession with which He could earn a living. He was tempted in everything, just like us, but He always remained in trust and obedience to God the Father (Hebr. 4, 15).

Through Jesus, the Son of God, there is for everyone the possibility of liberation from guilt and decay.

The goal of His mission on earth was to offer Himself as a perfect sacrifice to God

the Father, in order to give all people, even the very bad ones, the opportunity to be reconciled with the almighty and perfectly good God, to become beloved children of the eternal God and to receive a new life that can exist before the just God in trust and voluntary obedience. God wants to share His life with these people forever without end and bring them to rule the cosmos together with Him.

God, the Father, raised Jesus from the dead and made Him alive and gave Him all authority and made Him the heir of everything, and this is exactly His goal also with all who trust and follow Jesus. In this way it will finally become clear to all powers in the cosmos how loving and how powerful God, the Father, is.

(We found the following books helpful for this article: Geisler, Norman I. und Turek, Frank: I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist (Wheaton, Illinois, 2004) and Ross, Hugh: Improbable Planet. How Earth Became Humanity's Home. (Grand Rapids, 2016))

Holidays in the Netherlands

We had a wonderful and relaxing holiday in the Netherlands with the deaconesses in Amerongen and the community (Leefgemeenschap Bethanië), to which they now belong together with 4 families. One of our friends from Germany came for 3 days to visit us there.

Zendings-Diaconessen at Amerongen

In 1923 the deaconess Johanna Bock went to the Netherlands to look after young German women who were working as domestic help in the Netherlands. Sister Johanna belonged to the Deaconess Motherhouse Hensoltshöhe in Gunzenhausen (Bavaria). She gathered young women in groups of the EC (Youth Federation for Christian Endeavour) and young women from the Netherlands joined them. Many of these women felt called to be completely available to God with all their gifts and thus to serve God as deaconesses. Thus in 1935 the Deaconess Motherhouse Amerongen was founded following the example of the German Community Deaconry Association (DGD), but has always been independent of it. This turned out to be very important, when Germany occupied the Netherlands during world war 2. Besides nursing and social work, the sisters have always been very concerned with the proclamation of the Gospel in their work with children and young people, but also in evangelization work. Shortly after the war a number of outreach stations were founded and sisters also worked abroad. Thus Zr. (Sister) Irene worked in a branch of the DGD in Hessen. There she met Christine about 30 years ago and helped her a lot. Zr. Anneke still travels regularly for several weeks to visit Indians in the jungle of Surinam, where she used to work, and Sister Dorien still keeps in touch with a community of sisters in Rwanda.

Leefgemeenschap Bethanië (Community Bethania)

Since in recent decades hardly any women have allowed themselves to be called by God into the service of the deaconess and many old deaconesses have died in the meantime, the other Deaconess houses in the Netherlands had to give up, and the hospitals of the Diaconesses now have to go on without the Diaconesses. Also the Deaconesses in Amerongen are now only seven, all of them over 50. How should things continue now? The sisters decided to form a Christian community with 4 young families, the Leefgemeenschap Bethanië. The mother house, which had become much too large in the meantime, was sold to a very good Christian work. For the sisters and these families a beautiful house was built with a courtyard and the apartments of the sisters and families.

3 weeks at Amerongen

Zr. Irene and Zr. Ingrid had visited us in Lum Sum in 2010 and 2017, and in 2013 we also spent some days with the sisters in Amerongen during our trip to Germany. Actually it was planned that Zr. Irene and Zr. Ingrid visited us again this year, but the bad state of health of Zr. Ingrid did not allow this. So they invited us and even paid for our flight. We were allowed to live in one of the apartments in the new house for 3 weeks. We were treated well by the sisters and bz friends from Amerongen and Leersum, so that it became a really nice holiday. We took part in common prayers of the community. We had beautiful meetings with individual sisters and a meeting with the whole community of sisters. It became clear that we are quite close to each other. We were impressed by the sisters and the families of the community. Friends invited us to lunch and we were taken on excursions to Scheveningen on the North Sea, to Utrecht, to a huge garden market and to the nature reserve Blauwe Kamer at the Rijn. Since we were well supplied with additional sweaters, we could cope quite well with the transition from 25 degrees in Thailand to 5 degrees in the Netherlands. A friend from Germany came to visit us for 3 days, it was a nice meeting. With pleasure we think back to the beautiful days and the tasty sea fish there. Because of the interests of our friends within and outside of the community we decided to send our newsletter now also in Dutch.

Back in Thailand again

We got the extension of work permit and visa for another year.

When we returned, Reiner had to go straight back to Bangkok to get the extension of his work permit as a missionary for another year and to pick up the papers we both needed to extend our visas. Since the immigration office requested more documents, it finally took 3 visits until we finally got our visas extended for another year.

Christmas celebration for our children at 21 December

Khun Paeng had organized a Christmas celebration at our House 1 as part of her weekly children ministry. 28 children came

Preparations for the new year

Christine asks for Gods leading where and when she has to go to womens' conferences in order to strengthen and encourage women in difficult situations.

Reiner has agreed to join the team that holds the Pastoral Leaders' Training for Pastors and Missionaries at CTTM. This team will meet soon for planning and preparing. Reiner was also asked to be part of a team, that holds conferences for men, and also this team will meet soon.

It seems that we both need to visit our Brothers and Sisters in India and Pakistan.

For all this we need God's guidance and protection.

Upon request of the director of our local primary school we plan to distribute fruit there at the Childrens' Day of the State (Jan.10th).

Prayer

We thank God:

- for our wonderful holidays in the Netherlands and the closer connection with the Sisters, the community and other friends at Amerongen,
- for the timely extension of Reiner's work permit and our visa for an additional year,
- for the good Christmas celebration for our children on December 21st.

We ask Gott:

- for more people in our village to come to Christ and to grow in faith
- for a good planning and preparation of our ministries in 2020,
- for preserving our health, so that we have the strength to do what we have to do,
- for a quick recognition of our foundation by the provincial Governor of Kanchanaburi Province

We wish you God's protection and His blessings during the next weeks and send you warm greetings from Lum Sum

Yours sincerely

Christine und Reiner Hennig

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| <p><u>Our address in Thailand:</u> Dr. Reiner Georg Hennig Christine Margarete Hennig 299 Moo 2 Muban Kaosamchan Tambon Lum Sum Amphoe Sai Yok Kanchanaburi 71150 Thailand Tel. (0066) - 34 - 585054 Email: henniglumsum@yahoo.com Webseite: www.hennig-lumsum-online.de</p> | <p>ดีออกเตอร์ ไรเนอร์ จอจซ์ เฮ็นนิก คริสติน่า มาร์กาเรต เฮ็นนิก 299 หมู่. 2 ตำบลลุ่มสุม อำเภอไทรโยค จังหวัดกาญจนบุรี 71150 โทร 034 - 585054 Email: henniglumsum@yahoo.com</p> |
| <p><u>Bank Accounts in Germany:</u></p> <p>Margarete Hennig Pax-Bank e. G. Köln BLZ 37060193 IBAN: DE16370601930036676019 BIC: GENODED1PAX</p> <p>We are not allowed to write receipts reducing German taxes for all the donations we receive on this account.</p> | <p>Missionsverein Lasst uns gehen e.V. Sparkasse Bamberg Konto 810 918 227 BLZ 770 500 00 IBAN: DE27 7705 0000 0810 918227 BIC: BYLADEM1SKB Please note on your transfer form: Missionare Hennig</p> <p>According to German regulation this association is entitled to send you confirmations of receipt for donations, usually once a year. These confirmations can be used in a tax declaration to reduce your taxes in Germany.</p> |
| <p><u>Bank Account in Thailand:</u></p> <p>MR. REINER GEORG DR HENNIG AND MRS. CHRISTINE MARGARETE HENNIG</p> <p>Account nr.: 221-2-94827-9</p> <p>Branch: Kanchanaburi</p> <p>Bank: Kasikornbank</p> | <p>MR. REINER GEORG DR HENNIG AND MRS. CHRISTINE MARGARETE HENNIG</p> <p>เลขที่บัญชี 221-2-94827-9</p> <p>สาขา กาญจนบุรี</p> <p>ธนาคารกสิกรไทย</p> |

We continue to use our old bank account at ING-DiBa, but are not allowed to receive on it money for others.

Christine supports persons in need in India and Pakistan (we know most of their leaders and many of them personally). These donations will arrive at their destination by 100%, as we pay the expenses for money transfer and administration. For more information please contact Christine under cmhennig23@yahoo.com.

Pictures from the Netherlands



Autumn forest



pasture



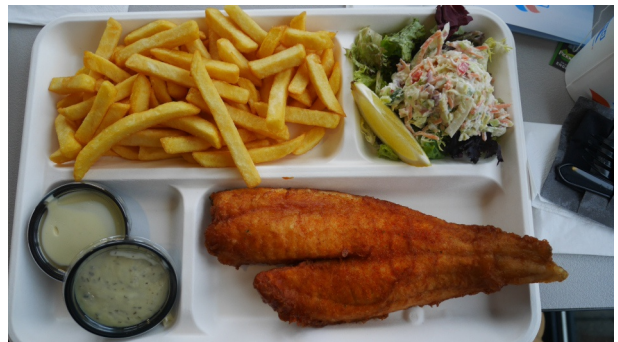
farm



nature reserve Blauwe Kamer



North Sea near Scheveningen



tasty fried fish



house of the Leefgemeenschap Bethanie: The families live at the left, the sisters at the right side.



The children can play safely in the inner courtyard of the house.



*Sinterklaas and the
zwarte Pit*



Dutch Nikolaus celebration



The Sisters join in wholeheartedly.



Our Christmas celebration: Fun, ...



... Singing, ...



... Christmas Gifts, but ...



*...the most important thing is:
Jesus came out of the glory down
into the manger, to the cross and
to the crown in glory with the
Father.*