

YWAM ARUBA

BON DIA

One year in Aruba!

Bon dia to you all! The first year with feet on the ground in Aruba has past and so many things happened. We got lots of new contacts, visited many different churches and already worked together with several other organizations on the island. It was a year of hard work, but also a year of many blessings. In this newsletter we will give you an update of how we are doing and what has happend over the last couple of months.

But first: how do you like our brand new brand design?! We are so incredibly thankful for this complete brand design, made by Jo from Rhythm.Design.Studio. We think she did an awesome job and she is a joy to work with, so we really want to recommend her to you. Are you looking for a new brand design, please have a look on her website and contact her!



Ministries

Aruba Doet, volunteering at the hospice, languages lessons for refugees, a Bible Summer School and more. Over de last six months we have had so many opportunities to minister to Arubian people. We love doing that. It is beautiful to see that many are longing to receive a prayer or even wisdom from God's word. When we are able to minister to others, we are reminded of God's love for us and the calling He gave us to come to this island. We will describe a little bit more of two of the ministries we were and are involved in.

Bible Summer School

What a glorious week we had! This Summer we were teaching in a Bible Summer School called "Misionero Riba Mi Isla" (Missionary on my island). This school was organized by Iglesia Piedra Plat. The organizing team had invited us to help them organize this school and teach in it. We felt honored! In just four weeks everything was arranged. Thirteen young people (age 15-25) attended the school. The subjects of the teaching were: Identity in Christ, Hearing the voice of God, You got served first, Circles of ministry and the Great commission. On Saturday we had an outreach, on Sunday a youth service. It was so wonderful to see all these young people being hungry to know more of God and to making Him known. What an engagement and what a huge blessing to Aruba.



Students, staff and teachers of the Bible Summer School.

Dutch language lessons

Hanneke started to teach Dutch to (children of) refugees. The first group of students were all children ages six to twelve. They were amazing! Unfortunately the final exam and graduation had to be put of because of the regulations on the island. All of the children attend school now, which is a huge blessing, since they had been out of school for a long time due to their status on the island. One of the students amazed us extra. She past her Dutch entry test for school with an A. We're so incredibly proud of all the students!

By now Hanneke started to teach Dutch to two new groups. This time she is able to teach adult refugees from Venezuela and other places around the world. What a blessing to be able to make a difference in all of these lives.



Staff

At the end of July we got our first staff member. His name is Sean Smith, he is 23 years old and he is from Weaverville, North Carolina. We were so happy to have him with us, but unfortunately, due to personal circumstances he had to go back to North Carolina for several months. We hope to welcome him back in Aruba at the beginning of 2021. In the meantime we are on the look out for other new staff members who have a calling to Aruba or to the ministries God called us to. So, if you feel called to either Aruba, family ministry, helping women in prostitution and/or helping pioneering a new base, please contact us for more information. We are more than willing to tell you anything you need to know.



Our new staff member Sean in Aruba.

Preparations

As you all know, we are preparing to be able to fully function as a YWAM Base. One of the steps we had to take for that was getting registered at YWAM international as a location and at the University of the Nations (UoFN). We are happy to announce that both registrations are finished. We are an official YWAM location and we are also able to organize a school when God calls us to do so.

In the meantime we are also preparing to receive mission builders and outreach teams. Step by step we are making our base more suitable for guests. Although we think that it will take a while before we're there, we are so thankful for every step that we are able to take, and for being a part of God's plan for Aruba!

In the last couple of months we had several zoom meetings with staff and leaders from other YWAM locations in the Americas. What a privilege to worship and pray together and seek God's face about several topics. In one of the meetings we were surprised with a beautiful video about all the YWAM ministries that are going on in the Caribbean.



Daily bread and prayer

We are so thankful for all that God is doing in Aruba and in our mission. It is wonderful to see how God is working in hearts of the people that we meet. One of our neighbors frequently comes by to ask for some food. One of the first times that he asked for food, we asked him if we could also pray for him. He was so thankful that we were willing to pray for him. Now, every time when he comes for food, he also asks for prayer. What a privilege that we are able to bless him in this way.

As we are moving forward as a mission, we also have several needs. In order to fundraise for the mission, we are in need of a local business bank account. With a local account it is easier to get an international bank account and a tax deductible status in the Netherlands and the USA. We have been trying for more than a year to get this bank account. Would you please pray for this?

Also, please be praying for others needs. Hanneke, Ryan and Kai are still waiting on their permits, which they applied for last December. In order to go forward, it would really be helpful if they got their permits before we have to apply for new ones, this upcoming December.

Our neighbor, who is willing to ask for food, is not the only one in need. Since more than half of the population of Aruba lost their jobs, there are many families who really suffer. In the meantime the government of Aruba doesn't make the wisest decisions. It is hard to be a witness of the situation Aruba is currently in. Please be praying for the government to act wisely and for the people that they will receive their daily bread despite of everything that is going on.

Thank you so much for reading this newsletter and for your prayers! It is really helpful for us to know that in the midst of pioneering, so many people walk with us in this journey and are willing to be a part of Gods plans for Aruba.

Blessings to you all!

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