

HAYS MISSION HOLLAND Summary- January 2006

From: "Dr. Peter J. Hays" <PHays@GEMission.com>

Subject: HAYS MISSION HOLLAND UPDATE 1/9/06

Date: Mon, 9 Jan 2006 13:08:31 +0000

Thank you for your prayers. It was so clear that SOMEONE was praying; God gave us an incredible baptism service last night! At one point, as the congregation was rejoicing in song and the testimony of Christ was strong, the thought hit me—"The Lord has been faithful to build what He wanted to build through sending us here. Look at this; it's happening right before your eyes!" It was very encouraging as we reflect back on our 16 years here and look forward to our next "assignment". Another great joy was being part of the worship band with Margré, Justin and Joran. It is really special to serve the Lord together as a family!

In Christ, Peter and Margré Hays <><

PS Check out the pictures, including Theo, the sound man, thirsting for the "water of life!"

Photos posted in the CUMC photo album ... click on the link below or copy and paste into your browser http://pg.photos.yahoo.com/ph/christumcbc/my_photos

From: "Dr. Peter J. Hays" <PHays@GEMission.com>

To: "Dr. Peter J. Hays" <PHays@GEMission.com>

Subject: HAYS MISSION HOLLAND UPDATE 1/6/06

Date: Sat, 7 Jan 2006 15:11:56 +0000

God IS at work in our world! Tens of thousands of people are coming to faith every day around the world! (If you have time, read the article below.)

As you pray (for us and other missionaries), thank the Lord for His saving grace to these people. The Scripture is being fulfilled which says that this is the time when "the fullness of the Gentiles" will be saved (Ro. 11.25).

In Christ, Peter and Margré Hays <><

Christianity Continues Its World-wide Growth

The number of Christians world-wide continues to grow. Where there in 2000 2 billion Christians, mid 2005 it was already grown to 2.14 billion. That is one third of the world population. That is the conclusion of Christian Research from figures of the English Christian investigation institute.

English Christian Investigation Institute has moreover calculated that Christianity with 1.3 per cent growth per year is growing more quickly than the world population (1.2 per cent per year). According to expectation, in 2050 there will be 3 billion Christians.

The growth figures are caused especially by the fast growth of the churches in Asia (2.6 per cent per year) and Africa (2.4 per cent). Europe is the only continent in which the number of Christians is in decline.

Researcher Peter Brierly of Christian Research expects that the coming decades all Christian denominations will grow, but that an increasing number of Christians will be members of a free group, a non-traditional church. He says that the share of these free groups, often evangelical-charismatic, in the total of Christians will rise from 18 per cent now to 25 per cent in 2050. The share of Anglicans (4 per cent) and Protestants (18 per cent) will rise according to him, that of the Roman Catholic (43 per cent) will decline somewhat.

For all established churches it is true, however, that they will not keep up with the long term growth of the world population, and thus will shrink in percentage.

The Muslims and the hindus are world-wide still in the minority, with 1.31 billion and 870 million supporters respectively, from the figures of Christian Research. They are growing, however, more quickly than the Christians.

In 2005, the Muslims grew 1.9 per cent and the Hindus at the same time 1.5 per cent, compared to the 1.3 per cent of the Christians. Yet, according to Brierly, at this tempo it will take "yet many decades" before the number of Muslims surpasses the number of Christians.

Source: Dutch Newspaper Mailed on: 5 January 2006, 10:16

From: "Dr. Peter J. Hays" <PHays@GEMission.com>
Subject: HAYS MISSION HOLLAND UPDATE 1/3/06
Date: Wed, 4 Jan 2006 13:46:45 +0000

Happy New Year! May the Lord bless you richly in 2006, and may He do great things to build His church and glorify His gracious name in our world in this year! Thank you for your prayers for our Christmas services (3! At 3 different locations!). We were very pleased with the turnout, and with the loving, relevant presentation of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Good news—Lord willing we're holding a baptism service this Sunday! A woman who came to know Christ this Fall and one of our young people are taking this step of faith and obedience. Pray that faith and obedience would characterize us and the whole church throughout 2006!

In Christ, Peter and Margré Hays <><