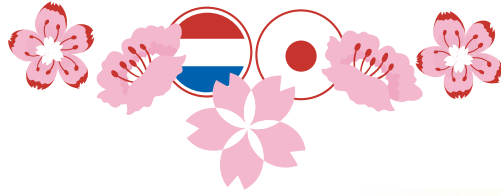


Project Deshima

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Prayer points, vlogs and newsletters



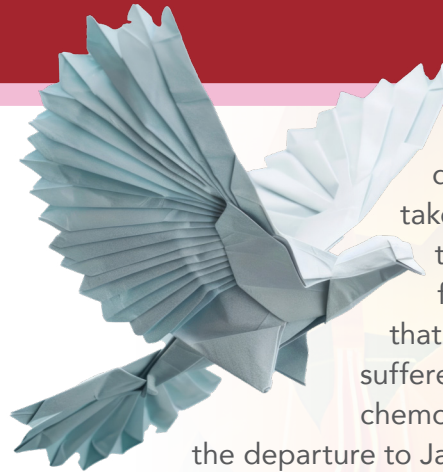
- THE INCREASINGLY LONG DETOUR TO JAPAN
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THE INCREASINGLY LONG DETOUR TO JAPAN

I read the previous newsletter before writing this one. I sighed deeply. So much has changed since the previous newsletter, and unfortunately not for the better.

Those of you who are in the prayer app already know: I recently went to hospital because of the increasing fatigue. Due to some other complaints that I had/have, the doctor also found this worrying. To be on the safe side, a PET scan was decided upon. Fortunately, it could be done quickly, but it was quite stressful to undergo it again and then to have to wait for the results again. Fortunately, everything is fine. There is a "but" though.

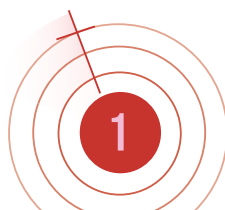
The doctors saw on the scan that my body is still working quite hard to fully recover from the chemo. Especially in my legs, it seems that quite a lot of work needs to be done. That is why my



doctor advises to take another year to fully recover from the blow that my body has suffered from the chemo. This means that the departure to Japan has to be postponed yet again.

In the meantime, I have an occupational therapist who teaches me how to deal with the fatigue. She has clever tricks to build up more strength. I am very happy with her. But there is still a long way to go. Recently, I have been away for a weekend twice and to be honest, I was in shock about how much energy that cost me. It was a clear sign that I need to take (more) rest. Unfortunately.

I hope that everyone will be patient a little longer while I hope to disappear via my ever-longer detour to Japan.



JAPAN: NOT YET, BUT IN THE MEANTIME A LOT IS HAPPENING

After the summer holidays, OMF Netherlands and OMF Japan will discuss whether I can come in July 2025 or whether it will have to be later. In the meantime, I am taking more rest but I am not sitting still.

For example, recently with a friend I had the opportunity to tell the children something about Japan during Crosskids (my church's Sunday school). We looked at how children live in Japan and at the importance of telling people about Jesus. We also wrote our names in Japanese and ate with chopsticks.

This month I hope to meet a Dutch family who work as missionaries in Japan and are coming on leave. The meeting is at their initiative and I am very curious as to what they want to talk about.

And then... my book. In consultation with the publisher, the title has now been determined: Sophie is Kwijt. This translates to: Sophie is Lost, but said in a way a child would say it. The book is expected to be published in October or November. I have always thought: if I have to stay in the Netherlands in 2024, I will try to publish this book. I am extremely grateful that I have been given this opportunity. Sophie is Kwijt is a literary detective story. The disappearance of a child puts the relationships in the family of the girl Sophie was playing with when she

disappeared under pressure, especially because everyone assumes that this girl, Zoë, should have been the real victim. The story, by the way, is set in the UK! Want to know more? Then visit elsvanweijen.nl/boek (it's in Dutch, but I know some you are avid users of Google Translate). Our faith plays a role in this book, but not a top heavy one. I wrote the story in such a way that it is also interesting for non-Christians, but perhaps makes them think a little. My deepest wish is too reach non-Christians.

PRAISE AND PRAYER POINTS

Give thanks for the opportunity to publish a book. Pray that it will reach the people it is meant for.

Give thanks that the Non-Hodgkin has not returned.

Pray for further recovery, and for physical and mental peace in this process.

Pray for a good place to live, now that I have to stay in the Netherlands for longer.

Pray that what the children who have heard about Japanese children will have an effect on their minds and hearts.

