

# Faith integration

Year report 2018



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Foto: Eline Schuurmans  
Foto omslag: Sandra Haverman

# 1.Foreword

Believing together. Connecting migrants with the Dutch. Finding multicultural faith in a secular society. That is what we are dreaming of and contribute to as organization of Faith Integration.

We believe that differences between people are not a reason for fear or separation, but rather a reason to be curious and connect with others.

We are trying to support believing together as Christians in all type of ways. It starts with our team, which is just as multicultural as our target audience. This also keep recurring in all of our projects as a core notion.

Trough working with country teams, we are building a network among people of all different types of nationalities and are trying to investigate what their specific needs and desires are.

In this way, we can accurately start up, facilitate and carry out projects. Projects in which are centered on migrants and their questions about life and faith. We like to specifically focus on youth and second generation migrants. We have the desire to serve them by joining them on their journey to finding answer to their questions.

In the previous year, multiple projects became reality. Aside from this, we were mostly focused on building the team and expanding the organization.

We are very grateful for everything that happened and are very excited to continue working in this beautiful ministry.

## 2. 'Connection' projects

*Once people get to know each other and learn to look at each other beyond the boundaries, amazing things happen. That is why we are very excited about the following projects from 2018:*

### a) Den Haag (The Hague)

Four Dutch churches went on a journey with four migrant churches. They started mixed bible study groups and are meeting twice a month and inspire each other. We provided support and supervision.

### b) Nieuwkoop:

We helped realize a culture-themed church service for which the entire village was invited.

### c) Multiple churches:

We created and performed a drama-theater church show about integration of and connecting with migrants.



### 3. Supporting migrants and migrant churches

a) *Whenever migrant churches don't have a pastor of their own nationality, they can turn to us.* In 2018 we offered pastor services to multiple migrant churches:

- Karen church Ede
- Kachin Church Amsterdam
- Eritrean church Rotterdam

b) *It is very important for migrant youth to find a place where they can ask all types of questions. A place where they can find understanding of their specific situation of being in between cultures. Young people know how to find us more often. We really understand the importance of offering counseling to young migrants.*

In 2018 migrant youth used (at least twice every week) services of:

- Online chat availability for life questions and counseling
- availability for conversations about questions and counseling sessions

We also provided a

- group meeting for young Burmese migrants in Oss



## 4. Materials

*It is important to have access to suitable material when starting up an intercultural group. This material should fit the target audience and be focused on connecting with each other. That is why we developed:*

‘Reading the Bible in a multi-cultural group’. A series about the gospel of Mark in ten meetings.

Over the year of 2018 we prepared the materials for wider use with the Protestant Church of the Netherlands. Around seven multicultural groups from different churches across the country have started the course





# 5. Education

*The ethnic composition of the group of Christians in the Netherlands is changing rapidly. It is important for pastors of Dutch churches to be prepared for serving the multi-cultural church. That is why we want to contribute to the expertise of future pastors on this topic. In 2018:*

- We developed the 'Migrants Expert Network' with other Organizations (Gave, I2I, Gospel for Muslims (E&M), Protestant Church (PKN), International Church Plants (ICP)) and created education offers for universities and colleges
- We provided guest lectures, workshops and a training for teachers.
- We started a coaching program for people working in multi-cultural contexts



## 6. Country teams

*Our country teams are the core of the organization. They build expertise, start up activities and create networks. They are also a source of information for people who want to start working to connect with migrants themselves.*

### **a) Chinese team:**

Activities in 2018:

- Two Chinese cooking workshops for Dutch and Chinese cooking fans
- Daily online presence on We Chat in Chinese for those that don't have a Christian network.
- Chinese Alpha-course with 8 participants
- Individual support with integrating in the Dutch society for +/- 10 persons

### **b) Ethiopian/Eritrean team**

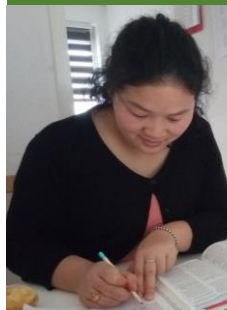
Activities in 2018:

- Exploration of the needs and desires of the Ethiopian/Eritrean community in the Netherlands
- Starting the monthly 'Buna, a coffee and community morning for vulnerable women
- Providing advice to Dutch Christians that are connected to the Eritrean community (eight meetings)

### **c) Thai team (start-up):**

Activities in 2018:

- Exploration of needs and Desires of the Thai community
- Consult with Thai experts (two meetings)
- Providing help with the annual conference of Thai Christians in the Netherlands, focused on connecting and integration.

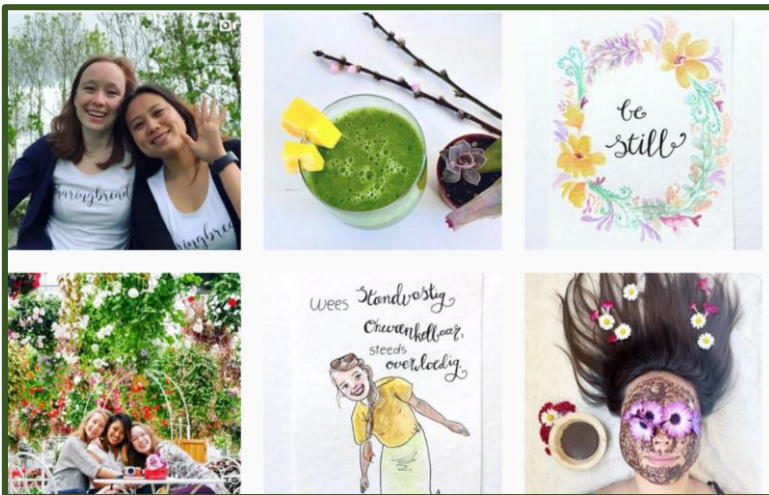




## d) Sharingbread team

Activities in 2018:

- Building an online community of migrant women in the Netherlands
- Daily instagram and facebook posts
- Online conversations (35 interactions per post)
- Three DIY workshops



## 7. Finance

Income statement		2018		2017
	€	€	€	€
<b>Profits</b>				
Donations churches	29.166		22.061	
Consultancy migranten churches	4.995		-	
Grants subsidy	15.000		15.000	
Gifts from individuals	5.817		3.625	
Sermons sessions	122		100	
Gifts intended for Al Massira	700		-	
Donation for volunteer salary by. Ds. Van Dijk organization	5.000		-	
<b>Grants total</b>		60.800		40.786
<b>Costs and expenses</b>				
Salary pastor/ CEO	50.038		16.280	
Volunteer costs	1.852		-	
General costs	4.749		2.163	
<b>Total costs</b>		56.639		18.443
<b>Interest</b>		-3		-
<b>Balance results</b>		4.164		22.343
<b>Balance results purpose</b>				
Add to savings for future continuing		4.164		22.343

## 8. Sponsors and partners

The organization is completely financially dependent on donations.. We want to thank our sponsors:

Maatschappij van Welstand  
Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church  
ds. J. Van Dijk fonds  
Diaconie PG Gouda  
Diaconie Kerk in Nesselande  
and individual donors

In 2018 we worked in coöperation with:

Protestant Church of the Netherlands (PKN/Kerk in Actie)  
International Church Plants (ICP)  
Dutch Bible Society (NBG)

We are part of the Migrant Expert Network.



## 9. Future plans

We want to keep committing to our mission: helping migrants to either keep or to find the Christian faith in the context of the Dutch secular society.

For the year of 2019 We plan on:

- Expanding the country teams
- develop more activities for young migrants
- focus even more on educating pastors and leaders of multicultural contexts



# 10. Team and contact

## Board

Chairman:

ds. Marien Kollenstaart

treasurer:

Peter de Koning

secretary:

ds. Annemarie Six-Wienen

## Advisers

ir. Arie de Pater,

ir. Harm van Schie

dr. Laurant Bethell

## Team

CEO:

ds. Esther van Schie

fundraising:

ir. Loek Balvers

administration:

Mehret Asayango

Country team China:

Amber Hwan

Country team Ethiopia/ Eritrea:

Mehret Asayango

Country team Sharing bread:

Seng Hkwan

Country team Sharing bread:

Margriet Shein

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