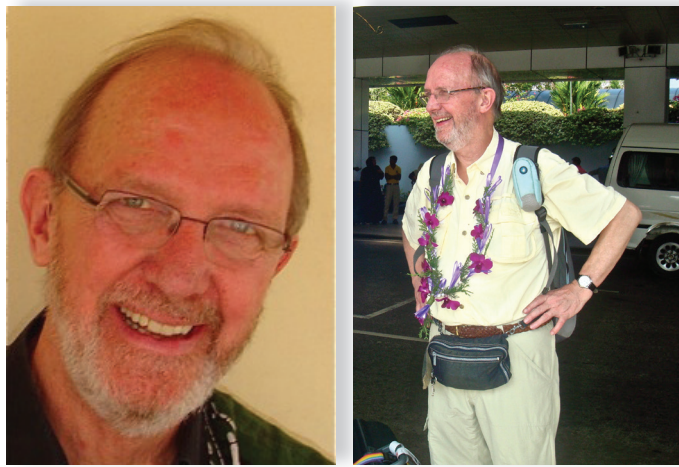


IN MEMORIAM DICK KEIZER



It is with deep sorrow that we must announce the death
of our Secretary Dick Keizer on 5th January 2015.

Following the Tsunami, Dick became immediately involved in providing help for the orphans of Sri Lanka. His efforts on behalf of Stichting Netherlands Sri Lanka, played a very great role in the establishment of three orphanages where today, some 100 children can enjoy a safe, loving and caring home, and where they can be educated and receive all necessary medical care.

Dick, as a former a doctor in general practice, became closely involved in the health of the children. When the orphans first came to the houses, many were suffering from wounds, eczema and head lice. Dick treated them using essential supplies bought from the local pharmacy, such as medicines, bandages etc. Dick's reward was to enjoy seeing those children grow steadily stronger and healthier.

Sister Chiara had the honour of travelling all the way from Sri Lanka to personally thank him for all his good works on behalf of the orphans. Dick was known to the orphans as 'uncle photo' because of the many pictures

he took of them, and the way that he also showed them those pictures on his laptop. In addition, nothing gave him more pleasure than to let the children use his camera and make their own favourite pictures too.





Whenever we visited the schools in Sri Lanka, we always saw overfull classes with Sri Lankan children all dressed in the same uniform. It sometimes made it hard for us to recognise ‘our own children’! But all that was needed was for one of the little orphan girls to smile in our direction and we immediately knew that she was from one of our own houses. Dick never stopped getting pleasure from that simple moment.



At the festive opening of our third orphanage in Kalanyia, Dick made a very good speech.

Over the last 10 years, Dick became increasingly committed to working for the good of the orphans and it was he who created the ‘slogan’ which we use with our logo:



.....WHOEVER SAVES A CHILD SAVES THE WORLD.....



Despite his deteriorating health, until the very end Dick remained closely involved with all aspects of the care and upbringing of the orphans and always insisted on keeping informed of everything that was going on. At the service of thanksgiving, his request for awareness for this very special work was made. A number of the photographs which he made in Sri Lanka were also displayed in the church, and instead of flowers surrounding his coffin, he asked for people to make donations to the Stichting.



Not least thanks to Dick's untiring efforts, today 100 orphans can look forward to a good future. Even though he is no longer with us his legacy remains. As Sister Amatha wrote, who came last November from Sri Lanka to thank him for all his work for the orphans...

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give".



Sadly, Dick is no longer with us. But for us, life goes on, as it does for the orphans in Sri Lanka. That is just the way that Dick wanted it, and the fulfilment of that wish can be seen by his involvement in the appointment of his successor in the Stichting. It gave him a feeling of contentment to know that Tanja Uitterhoeve would be assuming his responsibilities as secretary.

At the opening of the second orphanage in Katupotha all four committee members planted a coconut tree. On a plaque which was sited nearby, the following text can be seen in both Dutch and English:



*Planting a tree is a sign of faith in our world.
Planting a tree is a demonstration of hope for the future.
Planting a tree is a symbol of love for future generations
That will still remain when we are no more.*

Now that Dick is no longer with us, the importance of that message is clear for us all to see.

With best wishes:



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