

Greetings from Amsterdam:

Many of you are personally acquainted with me and others of you are friends of the family. Some of you, I understand, have been asking about me. I shall try to bring all of you up to date with my activities.

Since last summer, I have been serving in a Christian youth ministry, called DILARAM HOUSES. Dilaram means "peaceful heart" and comes from a language of Afghanistan. These missions are located in such diverse places as Afghanistan, Holland, India, Morocco, Nepal, and Spain. New Dilaram Houses are opening in Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz in California, Hawaii, and London, England. Our purpose is to present Jesus Christ to the thousands of young people traveling about the earth. In Holland, besides the mission headquarters on a farm at Heidebeek, Dilaram operates two large boats behind the Central Railroad Station in Amsterdam, appropriately called, "The Ark." On the Ark are found dormitory facilities, a coffee shop, a hobby shop, a library, and a book store. Let me know if you are coming to Amsterdam and you are invited to stay with us briefly. I personally live on the Ark and spend my time witnessing to these young people, instructing them in the Word of God, and counseling them. Also I write for our magazine, Incite, besides doing all the tasks involved in operating a mission. But all is for the Lord.

As one looks back over the last few years, it seems evident that the Lord has been preparing me for a youth ministry. While enrolled at Westmont in Santa Barbara, I traveled with my class through Europe and the Middle East. Now I can relate to these young people who also have traveled extensively. After graduation, I attended the American Institute of Holy Land Studies on Mount Zion in Jerusalem for a school year. The following two years were spent at Wheaton College in Illinois where resident work for a masters degree in Old Testament and Hebrew was completed. While at Westmont and Wheaton, I was busy in various aspects of Christian service. In Santa Barbara there was the Sidewalk Sunday School, an outreach to youngsters who do not normally attend church. Summers I taught in my home church in Ventura, besides earning tuition by working as a California State Park Ranger. At Wheaton I continued to teach a class of boys on Sunday mornings in a local church and Sunday afternoons went with a group from the Christian Service Council to the University of Chicago to witness to foreign students. For the summer of 1974, I was selected to work with three other students in a Christian youth hostel in Amsterdam. It was during this period that I became interested in Dilaram.

Young people today are especially in need of the help that only God can give. Many of these kids have been a part of the drug scene. Others have become involved in Eastern religions, various false sects, or contemporary existentialism. But all need Jesus Christ. Prayer is important for them. And prayer is essential for us who have chosen to reach out to these kids. Please remember us in your daily devotions or whenever the Lord lays it on your heart.

If you find that the Lord wants you to contribute to Dilaram or to my ministry here, feel confident that your money will be used wisely. There is great need, as you can see. Contributions are tax deductible.

We also have a special book ministry. Those dusty books on your shelves can be put into Christian service. Check with your post office for book rates and also the little known "book bag rate" found under old regulations.

Permit me to relate one of my happiest experiences in Amsterdam. A young German communist came to me and I had the opportunity to tell him about Jesus. After two hours of discussion, he finally said to me, "I never met any one who thought Christianity out before." He did not then accept Jesus as Saviour, but apparently an impression was made. Yes, with the help of God, we are able, as the Apostle Peter put it, "always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."

Yours sincerely,  
Lennart K. Holmquist

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