

# JUDITH DALM

Translator & Children's Church Leader | Netherlands

## Background:

**How do you serve in GCI?** I translate articles from English to Dutch for the church magazine. And I also do the Sunday school with the children of our congregation. / **What makes you choose to give your time and energy to this ministry?** I feel really connected with the people of our congregation and it is important for me to do things together in the church, so I wanted to do some things too. I never knew what my talents were, but I was asked for these things and I found out that I could do this. I think it's really important that children feel welcome in church and that they know they are just as important as the grown ups. Translating articles is something I started doing for a course for the church. Because I am a stay at home mum, this is ideal for me. I can translate when my children are sleeping or at school and at the same time learn a lot myself. Now the course is finished and I only translate articles for our church magazine. / **How has your ministry had an impact on who you are? On who God is to you?** In the past I have had a social phobia. I was so afraid of other people that I didn't even went to the supermarket anymore. I have had therapy and that helped a lot, but I still felt insecure and useless for a very long time. When I started doing things in the church, I started to see that I was necessary as well. And I also learned that God can use me too, even when I am weak and afraid. For me God is someone who knows me completely and who takes care of me like no one else can. He loves me even when I fail. / **What are some stand out memories from your time in GCI?** The first time we came to the 'Hoeksteen' (our local GCI church), we were just married and moved from another place. We came from a very large traditional church. In this church they believe that infant should be baptized. I was baptized as an infant, but I had made the choice to get baptized as an adult as well and because of that we were no longer welcome at the Lord's Supper. So we were now looking for a church where our baptism was no problem. In the 'Hoeksteen' there were maybe 30 members (where in our former church there were 1000 members, and we were there pretty anonymous) Everyone here saw us and we felt really insecure and visible and never wanted to go back again. But God had other plans and somehow we ended up here after all. At first I still felt really insecure and scared to talk to other people, but with the time that changed. Now we really like it here and it feels like a family. Everyone is accepted for who he or she is in God. We feel needed here and because of that our sense of responsibility grew too. We are all necessary in the body of Christ, no matter what task or gift we have been given.



## Get to Know Judith



1.

I live in the Betuwe, a river landscape with lots of fruit trees. Especially in spring time it's a very beautiful area, with lots of blossom trees. In spring and summertime we love to get on our bikes and take the ferry across the river with our three children (9, 6 and 2 years old). Then we cycle to a playground or swimming pool. In the fall we like to walk in the forest. There are apple- and pear trees there and our children really like it when we go and pick some fruit.

2.

How do you experience or feel close to God? I often feel like God is walking besides me when I'm doing my daily work. I feel I can talk to Him anytime and I am never alone. Especially when I sing or when I hear music I really feel close to God. He really speaks to me in music.

3.

I am grateful that I no longer have to live under the law. In our old church I always felt guilty that I couldn't live up to Gods standard. Now I learn more and more that I am free in Christ. I still struggle with sin of course, but I don't feel that overwhelming depressing feeling anymore of not being able to do right. I now know that God is working with me and that he is patient. And He loves me most of all.

### FAVORITE SCRIPTURE?

Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. I find it really comforting that I know that God has everything under control, that I don't need to worry, because He is with me. He will always help me when I need Him.

### STRUGGLE OR LIFE LESSON YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?

I have learned that God works with everyone in a different way. He can tell me I have to do something, when another person is told the exact opposite. When my eldest daughter was born, I knew exactly how I was going to raise her. But it turned out that the way I wanted to raise her, was totally wrong for her. So I had to let go of all my ideas about raising children and look at my daughter. I believe that is how God works too. Everyone is different and God works with everyone in a different way.



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