

Dutch l'Abri Annual Activities Report 2017

In Eck en Wiel the summer of 2017 was busy with a surprising number of families as guests. It was a different dynamic for us, but we have space for them and made it work. Our theme weekends have remained full but the fall term and the winter term have been quiet as far as long-term guests. The Utrecht evenings can have as few as 5 or as many as 40. The films are in general better attended than the lectures.

We see a number of themes recurring among the guests: broken families, questions of guidance, assurance of faith. Many discussions have centered around fake news, global politics and technology addictions. The community setting remains a very vital element of what l'Abri has to offer people.

In Eck en Wiel we have had a number of projects: renovations of an apartment bathroom, repairs of storm damage on the roof and windows of the main house, work on the gutters, and the repairing of a plumbing drainage line. We have bought solar panels and hope to install them soon on the main house. The heating systems in Utrecht and in Eck en Wiel have been touch and go but are working now. We see God's hand in helping us balance what we can pay professionals to do and what we can do ourselves.

Lectures over the last year:

Calling: binding, freeing or both?

The Trinity and the meaning of love

Disinformation: is 'fake news' really new?

Free or Detached: Have the Dutch Lost Their Way?

Mondriaan: Losing Sight of the Landscape

The Fatherhood of God: Model of Complementarity

God the Son: Communication and Connection

Pain and Love: Who Has the Last Word?

How Intelligent are We in an Era of Artificial Intelligence and Fake News?

The Return of the Will

Different but Welcome: What is Love of Neighbor?

The Lost Art of Apologizing

Lessons from 'Into the Wild': What have We Learned in 10 years?

Rothko and the Striving for a Spiritual Ideal

The 'Father Wound' and Faith: Obstacle or Proof?

True Mindfulness: a Biblical Challenge

The Irony of our Post-Truth Era

'Screen time' and Empathy: Concerns for Kids and Adults!

Does Reconciliation Require Atonement?

A Jewish Root: Seder Liturgy for Easter

Rookmaaker's Legacy: Faith and Art today

'Complete life' or 'fulfilled life'? Ethical Questions about Euthanasia

The Trinity: the Heart of Faith

God the Son: Our Salvation and Growth

Living through the Spirit: True Spirituality

Was There Really a Cosmic Fall of Man?

Where Does Evil Come From?

Fake News or Good News? How do We Read the Bible?

Meditation: the Invitation of the Spirit?

Films: Captain Fantastic, Manchester by the Sea, Departures, Me Before You, Lion, Silence, The Chosen, La La Land, Paterson, Locke, Whiplash, Hidden Figures, Blade Runner 2049

Guest Speakers: Richard Winter, Paul van der Feen, Dick Westerkamp