

Willem was a relaxed, smiley baby. People often stopped us in the grocery store, after asking me if they were all mine they would always comment on how beautiful Willem's smile was.

Our four other kids loved Willem so much. Annemieke especially loved to hold him, carry him, she was almost like a second mother to him. She loved having someone to take care of. I know Annemieke and Willem had a special bond the big sister and her baby brother. Saskia was thrilled to have another little buddy, another brother, who she one day could play soccer and baseball and hockey and football and rough house with. Anja had a special bond with Willem too, she would often be found laying beside him, just chatting about who knows what. Little Adriaan loved his little brother "blwilliam" He loved to jump on Willem. And hug him, and give him sloppy kisses, even though it was usually too hard. They all loved him so much. They would just come, pick him up, and bring him to where ever they were playing, if was Lego, trains, house, school, or building a fort.

We are so thankful for the time we had with Kees, we will miss his smile and the joy he brought us all. But we believe that God had a bigger plan for him. He gave us another beautiful perfect child, that we could enjoy for a time. He created this strong boy to be a gift and to restore others. We asked ourselves why God would take this perfectly healthy boy so soon. We believe it was so he could bless two other families who were beyond hope for their new children, and give them a second chance at life.

Shortly after we knew he was gone, we began to see what God's plan might be for him and our prayers changed from prayers for us and Kees, to prayers for the families and children who he might help. We are so thankful that his heart and liver were matched with two children in Ontario. The waiting was extremely hard, watching our little boy's body being kept alive, not knowing if a match would be found. We were over joyed when we heard that their were two families in the Toronto Hospital who needed our help. We pray that the recipients will recover and thrive, and bring as much joy to their families as Kees brought to ours. As hard as it was for us to lose him, we know that these families were struggling with

the fact that their new children, might live full and happy lives, if only they had a new heart and new liver. These children and families will always be in our prayers.

We have discovered more hidden blessings through this experience, it has brought us closer to each other, our family, our friends, and most importantly closer to God, and grown our faith. We have truly experienced the power of prayer, and the strength of our Christian community. The staff at hospital were amazed with the amount of support and visitors we had. We can't imagine having to go through this without all of you.

One of the most moving experiences in our time at the hospital, was after the first night one of the doctors, who had spent the night with us and discovering we were believers, wanted to pray with us in the morning. We were so humbled and moved that he was not afraid to share his faith, and to encourage us through prayer.

We are so thankful to the staff at the Stollery Hospital, their strength and care astounded us constantly. Knowing that they have to deal with sick and dying kids and their hurting families everyday, when we only had to cope with our situation for 3 . They will never cease to amaze us. We admire the fact that they can still be so caring and loving in a such a sad place.

The last night after several delays as we waited for the surgical team to arrive our nurse asked if I wanted to give Willem a bath. Marianne was there and Linda had just arrived. It was peaceful and healing for us to have that special time where we could relax and smile doing something normal together. That night we prayed together with the Oma and the Opa's and Adrian read from Psalm 139. When the time came we brought him to the operating room and said good bye for the last time. We went back to his room, thanked and hugged the nurse she told us that some of the other nurses had be texting for updates. As we left the hospital we felt a sense of relief and peace. Knowing that our part was over and that it was in God's hands now.

We know that Kees is with Jesus in heaven and we have comfort that my Mom is taking care of him now. We have always known how much she would have loved them, and wanted to hold them and take care of them, and now she can. All the Opas, Oma's, Grandparents and all our loved ones who went before him were there to greet him.

“And God himself will be with them;

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

And their death shall be no more;

Then there will be no time for sorrow or crying or pain

for all these things have past away.

Then he who was seated on the throne said

“Behold I have made all things new”

Again thank you all for your prayers and support we are truly blessed to have such a wonderful community around us and we are humbled to know how many people love us.