



San Jose, December 2005.

Dear friends,

2005. What a year... A year of ups, a year of downs... A year of happiness, a year of loss and tears...

We tried to make it to our homeland Belgium with the six of us; it didn't work out... I'm sure it was meant to be. Maybe because I was overly concerned for the flight and had lots of "what if-question marks" in my mind and heart...

2005 opened our eyes for the beauty of mankind - even more than ever before. America dreamt with Jan-Willem and with us; Belgium did. Jan-Willem got so much love and support and so did Helena, Elisabeth, and Alexander. So did we! Grandma, grandpa, Dr. Wong, Vicky, Fr. Cobb, friends from schools and churches, our neighbors, "JW Housers", Kaiser people... They were all there with us, for us. All the time. Over and over again. And they still are...

You still are! You were with us when we were in trouble; you were with us when we went through the hardest task a parent can face: walking your child Home... You were also with us when our other children needed extra attention. This, we will never forget! We promise you we will stay in touch with you.

As you can imagine, 2005 became a year mostly centered around JW. Not just because our son was so sick however.

Jan-Willem lived for a dream to become true. The dream of one day getting the JW House built.

His service to the community and good spirits made him the proud laureate for lots of awards. Awards from the cities of Santa Clara and Cupertino, from Santa Clara County, awards from the State of California, and even from the US Senate. Most of all, JW cherished his Jefferson Award and... the Bellarmine Award! Although shy at first, Jan-Willem started to love dressing up and going out, even speaking in public - and asking for the bathroom at the most impossible moments ☺ - ; it didn't even take long before he started to fall in love with the cameras!

Jan-Willem showed us how you can seize the day, even when you're very sick, dying... And how you can become a Man for Others, no matter how hard you suffer yourself. JW taught us the simple foundations of happiness and good feelings: LOVE! He was so right: LOVE, that's what it is all about!

On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, Jan-Willem found eternal Rest and Peace. We knew it was time to say goodbye and although it was hard to see our child go before us - it still is -, our hearts told us we had to let go. If a person suffers this hard and you really, really love him, you have to let go. And that's exactly what we and many dear friends did. We said and kissed and hugged goodbye and gave our beloved son back to his heavenly Father. In faith and gratefulness.

Our girls enjoyed Camp OKizu and their play (*Hansel and Gretel*) during summer break ("Mommy, mommy, we're both Gretels!") and Camp Hope in fall. They are now in fifth grade and like singing, volleyball, basketball, playing, swimming, watching movies and chatting over the phone (it takes them forever, believe me - times two ☺!)... We talk a lot, cry together, have fun...

Alexander graduated from pre-K and moved on to the next step of his school life: Kindergarten. This means indeed that, since August, the twins and Mr. Alexander attend St. Clare School. All of Saint Clare's children know Alexander by now and Alexander knows everybody at school. Alexander is a very happy kid, just like his brother and sisters. Jan-Willem used to call his Godson his Mini-Me - for a very good reason ☺! Mini-Me likes to read, to play soccer, to swim, to bug his sisters once in a while, to play with his friends...

Geert and I are doing fine - fine meaning as well as possible.

We love our children, each other, life...

Of course, we are going through rough times but we also managed to find a new balance in our lives. We live every second of our lives with Jan-Willem in our heart; we will never ever forget him. Most of the time, we can smile when we think of our son and talk to him; sometimes, we have to cry. And that's OK. But we will never forget what Jan-Willem taught us: Love one another, have fun and enjoy each other. JW showed us how to make the best out of the gifts God gave us. And that's exactly what our family is trying to do. In his spirit.

Thank you for helping us, for letting us cry, for laughing with us and making fun; thank you for your prayers, your meals, your baby sittings... Thank you, Dr. Wong, "JW Housers" and Kaiser; thank you AMR/EMT, Bellarmine, St. Clare's, St. Martin's, and all the others; thank you children and grown-ups; thank you family and friends; thank you Belgium; thank you everybody!



**We wish you Love and Peace in your hearts and on Earth!  
Merry Christmas!  
Have a wonderful year 2006!**

Geert, Anne Marie  
Helena, Elisabeth,  
Alexander and  
Jan-Willem who lives in us forever now

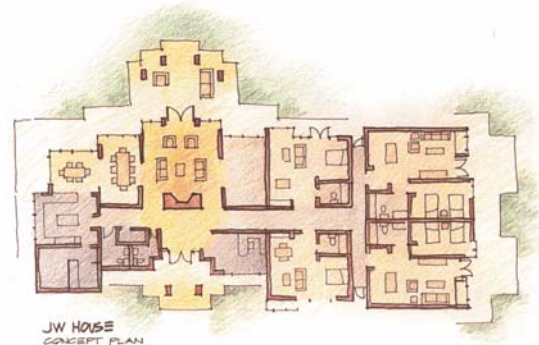
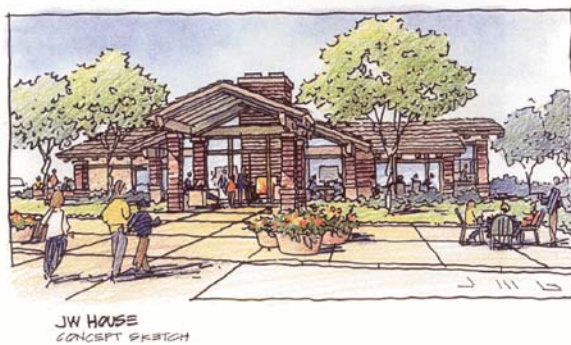
**On January 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm,  
we will celebrate JW's life in Belgium  
in the church of the Jesuits  
Waversebaan 220  
3001 Heverlee**

**Everybody is welcome!**

I hope you don't mind me writing a few words on the progress of the JW House...

Yes, we are getting there!

Our architect, Ernie Yamane, designed this beautiful view of what will be the entrance and the floor plan.



The blueprints are coming together; we hope some more money will find its way to our nonprofit ☺.  
And... we expect the House to officially open its doors in spring 2007!!!

**If you consider donating to JW's dream...**

Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated. There are two ways to donate to the JW House Fund.

1) Donate online: [Donate with JustGive.com](http://DonateWithJustGive.com)

2) Donate by mail: Checks made payable to the JW House can be mailed to the following address:

JW House  
P.O. Box 3666  
Santa Clara, CA 95055

**Please note that all donations are fully tax-deductible.**

Please visit [www.JWHouse.org](http://www.JWHouse.org)