

# Changes in my life

By Corrie Bakker

I was born and grew up in a small village Tilligte in Twente in the east of the Netherlands, about 200 km from Wijk aan Zee. My parents had a bakery and a greengrocers shop there. They had to work hard but even though I got the chance to study after primary. After completing my study I worked at an office of a clothing factory. On a holiday in Austria I learned to know my husband. He lived in the West of Holland and worked at a paper factory. Through his employer we could get a house but this did mean that I had to leave Twente, away from my family.

I married in 1964 and moved to Tussenwijck in Wijk aan Zee. That was quite a change, because the mentality of people in the eastern part of Holland differs from the mentality here.

I did feel freer here in Wijk aan Zee. I could do and leave off whatever I wanted. In the beginning I was not very much in touch with other people. I was jobless. We got two sons and when they went to school I was going to be in touch with other parents in the village and I started to help in the school and with activities in the church.

When my sons grew up and attended secondary school I started to look for a job in 1981. I began as a help in the household at elderly people in Wijk aan Zee. Fairly soon the institution that organizes help for elderly people gave me a job as an office clerk. I started working for the council of employers. Meanwhile a difficult period was coming for my husband. He was fired at the paper factory. He got an other job but the labour conditions were bad there. In 1988 he got injured in an accident and could not work anymore.

Then the circumstances changed in the family. My husband Piet stayed at home as a houseman and I had a full time job. This was quite special in those days. Most of the time the husband was the breadwinner. It was a big change but I have beautiful memories of that period. We both were very satisfied, it was a happy time.

In 1998 Piet got a brain infarct and he died after a few weeks in hospital. Being alone is again for me an enormous change. Shortly after I stopped working and retired.

Twente is still for me a beautiful part of the country, but after al those years and changes I am not going back to my birth place. Even there al lot of changes took place and I feel at home here in Wijk aan Zee.