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January 2020:

with: chasing documents, education about finances and good news from Mitava!



Our Mozambican government is like 'Holle Bolle Gijs' that wants paper

(a character from a Dutch children's rhyme that eats a lot and always wants more). The bureaucracy is terrible. I don't want to bore anyone with all the frustrating details and the endless waiting, but it is unfortunately true that organizing documents takes up a very large part of our time. So here's a happy paragraph about paper:

* At the beginning of November, we were able to extend our residence permits for another year (we've been eligible for the 5-year residence permit for a long time, but bureaucracy prevents that until now). It's a good feeling to be able to cross that one of our list!

*For our team we finally have the documents in order for sending a team to Sanga district on a permanent basis.

* One of our projects this year was to give our colleagues a boost in organizing their identity papers. Many took advantage of this help and are now very proud owners of a passport. Just as well, because since then the price has tripled!

* An even bigger project (more than 2 years) is the finally signed cooperation agreement with YWAM (Youth With A Mission) and the Provincial Department of Public Health. This document provides a healthy basis for the work in the clinic in Itepela, Mecula and at our Training Centre. In the meantime, our printer is working overtime and I am stamping and signing paper like a mad man... but we're moving forward!



A theme for last year in our team has been 'personal finances'. In a world where everything and everyone is in short supply, 'money' is one of the most discussed parts of life. Where we grow up with a 'penny account' at the bank and weekly pocket money, this is not the case here. An important part of poverty is not only the lack of money, but much more not knowing how to handle it. While there are a thousand handy books, courses and online apps for people in the Western world, not one single educational tool has been devised for an ordinary African family. Increasingly, we are being asked to teach about this subject. We are hesitant to do so because our worlds are so completely different in this area. But fortunately God's Word has principles that apply

to all people and tribes all over the world so that gives a man courage. This year I (Frank) taught a semester of finance at the bible school here in Lichinga of a befriended missionary organization and that was a wonderful challenge (develop your own teaching materials). I enjoyed the interaction with the 21 students and learned a lot about Mozambique myself. In our own team we help local members with things like: keeping track of what you spend your money on, making a budget and bringing order in your financial life. We want our team to grow in this important subject of stewardship because it has an effect on many other areas of life.



Intense love does not measure. It just gives.
Mother Teresa



Right before the end of the year a lot of things were happening in Mitava.

The 13 preschoolers received their 'diploma' in November and the roofs of a whole number of elderly people are being renovated.



Also: after a lot of preparation (see previous paragraph about paper!) we suddenly start with not one, but two building projects! We have a sponsor for the construction of our first real classroom in Mitava (the current classroom is a converted barn). We are also building an office and toilet building. The foundations are almost ready!



The second building project is a staff house for Mitava. At the moment there is no permanent staff living there because the existing house is too small for a family. Our Dutch foundation "Building People Bringing LIFE!" was blessed with a huge gift,

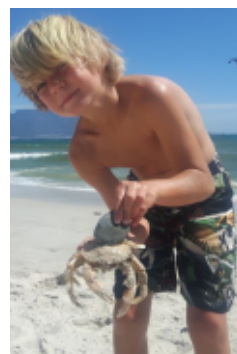
and we decided to use it for the construction of a staff house. At the moment we have 10.000 euro available: half! We bought a container in which the building material can be stored dry and safe. Together with the Mitava team we designed the house, applied for the permits and started digging the foundation. **We are looking for people that want to help us finish the Mitava staff house.** An old Dutch saying says: "Many hands make a job go easy." Please don't think your gift is too small. A new improvement is that you can now transfer a gift online (Paypal or credit) via our website. If you want more information about Mitava or other projects we do and the impact it has on the community, please let us know and we will be happy to tell you more.



António: the team-leader in Mitava

We had an inspiring regional YWAM conference in Malawi. Our region consists of Malawi, Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique and YWAM is active in all these countries. We went there with a large group of local colleagues, received good education (and helped as translators!) and were able to exchange experiences.

God is preparing Africa to become a sending continent!



We as a family are just back from a loooovely vacation in South Africa and we thank God for rest and relaxation. Last month we waved goodbye to Dinis and Balbina: they've moved to Pemba to start a new YWAM base there. A new period starts and we are going to miss them enormously.

We have visitors from the soccer DTS from NL! Also we had our big party on New Year's Eve with the whole team. We ate 'oliebollen' and it was a big party - a good start of the year. **We also wish you a bright entrance in the new year: 2020!**

Love, Frank, Sandra and Judah Obdam!



Colophon

Frank, Sandra and Judah Obdam

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