

Frank
Sandra
Judah
Obdam



June 2020:

with: Covid news, mini DTS, building projects and a big loss... but God helps us going forward!



Hello dear friends,

What a crazy time to live in. We're supposed to be on a road trip through Europe right now and then continue with our furlough in Holland. However, we had to change our plans completely and we still don't know whether we can make it to Holland this summer. In spite of the Corona virus being daily news, we are in a safe place: our province Niassa is triple the size of Holland and only has 4 cases up to date .



All of the **350 Covid-patients in Mozambique** are located many miles away. Most patients have only mild symptoms and so far only 2 people died. The difficulty however is the fact that if the virus truly starts to spread, there will be no proper health care system to deal with it. Meanwhile

our daily reality is a whole lot worse than the Covid threat. The people around us are dying of malaria, anemia and malnutrition. The hospital is sending people away without attending them for they are too busy with Corona prevention. The side effects of Corona make many more victims than the actual disease on our side of the equator.



In order to deal with the disappointment of not travelling to Europe, we went to be with friends at their farm a 110 km out of town for two weeks. We enjoyed their company, rest and recreation. After that, it was back home and back to work as much as possible within Covid restrictions.

We are in state of emergency phase 3 here in Mozambique (out of 4 phases where phase 4 would be a proper lock down) and still have quite some freedom of movement as long as we wear our masks and do not gather with more than 10 people at the same time. If I put on my mask I can easily go into town, wash my hands at the entry of a shop and do my shoppings. **The schools have been closed for 3 months now** so

that is quite the challenge for our colleagues that run our primary school with 380 kids. They call the parents one by one and give them homework and tests for the pupils. But when you realize that many of the parents cannot read and write themselves, you'll see the challenges that are faced. Some don't even bother to show up at all. For us homeschooling is nothing new and Judah is finishing the last bits of grade 6 and will move onto grade 7 with flying colors. Other ministries continue in adjusted forms. I, Sandra, bring healthcare into the homes with my team instead of calling a big group of sick people to the center. It is a great way to get to know our neighborhood better and to extend our friendships.

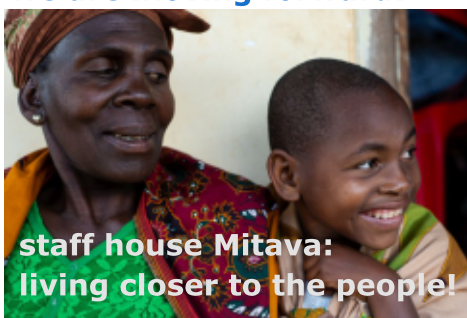


In March we had an absolutely wonderful mini DTS - Discipleship Training School and we have seen 19 students making great leaps of faith in their lives. When it was time for our 6-day outreach we took a team to Meponda. At one house the students prayed for a little girl that wouldn't eat for three days and just rested almost lifeless in her mother's arms. Even while the students were praying, her eyes became alive, she lifted up her head, sat up straight and asked her mother for some pumpkin to eat for she was hungry!

A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer,
it sings because it has a song.
Maya Angelou



Since we are stuck here anyway, we might as well continue with some building projects. I (Frank) am renovating the youth house in town (new floor, fix walls, drainage, painting etc.) and colleague Daniel is just done with the foundation for the **training clinic** at our center (how cool is that?! A dream of years ago becoming a reality!). Another colleague, António, just finished building the pre-school in Mitava and now switched to putting on a roof on the new staff house we are building there. Funds from Switzerland, Holland and Mozambique need to administrated carefully and bring us a lot of work, but also a very happy dynamic: Isn't it great when you are building things? **It truly brings hope to the team and to the communities as they see we are moving forward!**



**staff house Mitava:
living closer to the people!**

We have received enough funds for the staff house to put the roof on and to start with some of the finishes of the house. Thanks to everyone that has contributed; together we've managed this leap forward! We do still seek sponsors to completely finish the house. Please contact us if you want more info.

A BIG LOSS

Start of May we had a leadership meeting at our Mitava ministry. Our team of elders is really a great team with unity and trust and also in this meeting it was great to meet, listen, pray and plan for the future. After the meeting we drive home and 10 minutes behind us is tio (uncle) Jone on his motorbike. As we turn unto the tar road we have a bright sun blinding our eyes and we even remark out loud how dangerous this can be. Within the hour we receive a phone call from the traffic police telling us that tio Jone hit a parked truck at full speed at exactly the same spot. He died instantly from the impact of the crash...



**tio Jone
and his wife Carolina
(colleague in the clinic)**

At moments like these, the world collapses around you. Tio Jone has been on our YWAM team since the very beginnng 23 years ago. Leader of a home church and a beloved father of a beautiful family. We raced to the hospital were we had to identify his body. Then the difficult task was ours to go and inform his family of this terrible news. Their faces lit up when they saw us; they were so happy to see us, but we knew that our terrible message would instantly make an end to all that joy. It is difficult to put into words all the things that we felt.

Two days later we burried him. Despite Covid-restrictions there were 400 people present for he was a well-known and loved man.



I, Frank was asked to speak at his funeral and I could bring words of hope and life. A great servant of God has departed from us so suddenly. Now we have to pick up the broken pieces and continue the task that God has given us: **making God known** untill the Niassa province will be known as a place where people live in intimate relationship with Jesus. Please pray with us for tio Jone's family and our team!

*Love, Frank, Sandra
and Judah Obdam!*



Colophon

Frank, Sandra and Judah Obdam

Jovens com uma Missão

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