

Frank
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Mozambique Mail

December 2016:

Act normal, that's crazy enough!

This is a typical Dutch saying that I often apply to our lives here in Mozambique. As soon as we set foot on Mozambican soil the highs and lows of life seem to speed up ten times. It is really hard to comprehend the sheer number of car trouble, water issues, health crises and emergency deliveries that one can have in a month. On the other hand: there are beautiful healthy newborn babies to rejoice over, we hear awesome stories from our colleagues about people turning to Jesus and wanting to be baptized, the house churches are growing in number and maturity and there is great joy just in being home again. So for me; everybody just act normal... that is crazy enough!



In the last few weeks of being in Holland,

we organized four special supporter days. We either cooked our friends a four course dinner or we prepared a wonderfully lush brunch for them (of course with

about supporter days, many kilo's in a Boeing 787, waiting lines for the clinic, inflation and the birth of a baby on our veranda...

assistance of many local friends!!). While our supporters were munching away we had the opportunity of telling them about our life and ministry in Mozambique. It was great to have such an expanded time slot to share and explain and we received a lot of positive feedback. If it is up to us we see you all next time for a reprise!



Once again we managed to get a good 200 kg of luggage past all the check points.

At Schiphol Airport we quickly went to Burger King (that was still on my to-do list for Holland so we could tick that one off as well) and then we had a crew of lovely people waving us good bye. The new Boeing 787 are quite spacious so we could easily stow all our hand luggage in the overhead bins. I (Frank) was sweating like a pig though because in order to save kg's I was wearing a shirt, a sweater and a coat (instead of putting it all in the suitcases) so I was suffering from local warming. And off we went to Nampula where Youth with a Mission has a new base that had just finished their first DTS (Discipleship Training School).

Next morning around 06.00 we had people knocking on our guest room door.

Their son was down with a serious case of malaria (apparently the reputation of our small clinic reaches far!). After doing some shopping (they have a real supermarket in Nampula!) and preparing the car for the big journey we started our last bit of the big trip home on a Sunday: 650 km of partially good and partially 'interesting' roads. After 11 hours we finally made it back to Lichinga: so good to be home! Home with all your own stuff and even to know exactly where to find everything, our own rhythm and all the familiar faces of our friends, colleagues and neighbors. We are so thankful for the place where God has called us to serve.



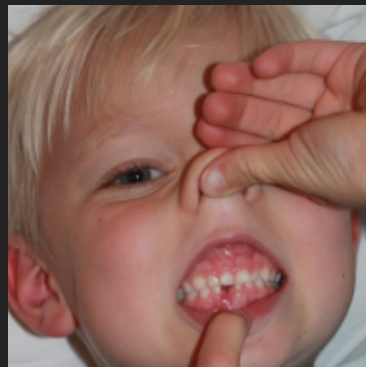
The situation in Mozambique is somewhat stable.

Especially in our remote province we don't notice the tension between the army and the rebels too much. However the economy is suffering badly. The Mozambicans have a hard time due to rising prices whilst their salaries remain the same. Due to the favorable exchange rate for the euro we personally do not suffer these consequences).



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building people, bringing LIFE

Many products have now become too expensive to import and we notice the stores being more empty than normal. Also the transport to our remote place has become problematic. During this crisis we are so thankful that our **food program** continues to be a blessing: more and more malnourished mothers and children come to have their maize porridge fortified with the beans and peanuts that we can offer them. This program continues thanks to your donations!



The waiting line, with sick people, that forms in front of our little clinic has clearly grown and that is a good sign. All the stories we heard whilst being in Holland were true: Eugênia faithfully continued with the clinic in our absence. She even included another colleague that she could train to learn some basics about healthcare. Deliveries still can come unexpected at times. On the first Friday night we were home, we worked hard to prepare everything for our family

night. The three of us huddle together on our sofa ready for enjoying a movie and a home made pizza. But... who is knocking on our door? Judah and I continue to watch the movie but all of a sudden I hear Sandra roar my name. A young lady had walked up to our house and as Sandra is opening the door **she is literally having a baby on our doorstep:** the head is already crowning (hence the roar). Where are the keys to the clinic for surgical gloves and such? Where is Sandra's bag with supplies and instruments for a delivery? As Sandra helps the baby being born I get to do some acrobatics as I need to climb up our attic (without the use of a ladder) and find Sandra's stuff in the dark. The baby is not breathing well and Sandra is breathing through the baby's nose to get oxygen into this tiny creature. And then... we hear the lovely cry of a new born baby. Immediately the atmosphere changes from tense into relief. We quickly carry the young mother into our home and unto an extra bed and Sandra checks baby and mother while I prepare hot water bottles and look for towels. It's a small but healthy baby girl weighing 5 pounds and 5 ounces. The new mom and grandma stay over for the night so we can check on them healthwise. After a good night and a fortifying breakfast the father comes to pick up everybody and they go back home. That was quite a different kind of family night than expected and this 'movie' kept on going through our minds for quite a while after that.

We are glad that we could make a difference in the lives of this family this special night.



We brought all the Christmas decoration stuff down from the attic. The best part of that is to hang the beautiful outside lights. The neighbor kids come to check it out and are mesmerized by it. New Years eve we will celebrate with our team at our house: hopefully outside like last year - 75 F!
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Frank, Sandra en Judah Obdam



Colophon

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Merry Christmas
Happy New Year

Gezegende Kerst
Gelukkig Nieuwjaar

Feliz Natal
Bon Ano Novo

Schöne Weihnachten
Ein Guten Rutsch