

Frank Sandra Judah Obdam



January 2018:

a **DOUBLE** edition about: DTS, outreach, Sara, a successful food aid project and a new car...

Wow - it has been a while!

It has happened before that we were a month or so late with our news letter but this time we have taken it to a whole new level: more than half a year without Mozambique Mail. What do you think has happened in between??? To make it up we have made this edition a double one!



Our biggest project of last year was running a DTS: Discipleship Training School. After a short and improvised time of preparation came the question: are we sure we want to do this? But the Lord kept on confirming that this was His plan so we moved forward with: cleaning rooms, moving beds, beautifying the classroom and putting schedules together. 17 students, 6 staff members, and 25 kids. Add to that the families that already live at the center and you will understand that it was wonderfully busy. Great to see our center being used for what it is build for! It was also great to have Daniel and Leoni visiting us for 7 weeks and they were helping amazingly (more on this later...).

The DTS is like a train: it is hard work to get it up to speed but when it moves, it goes forward without stopping. The schedule: arise and shine at 5.30 to have quiet time with the students at 6.00 in the classroom. Then a quick visit home for breakfast with Sandra and Judah. At 8.00 worship or intercession followed by lectures from 9.00 till 12.30 with a small break in between. After lunch we did our work duties (kitchen, cleaning toilets, chopping wood) or we visited one of YWAM's local ministries: medical clinic with Sandra, helping the elderly in Mitava, joining the youth work or evangelism in one of the neighborhoods. The evenings were for staff meetings or processing the lectures together with the students. What a whirlwind of activities! After the initial chaos, order settled in. The atmosphere started to change: Jesus is working in the hearts of the students (and in the hearts of the staff as well by the way).



Through the one on one mentoring talks with the students we learn that almost all students come from a Muslim background and that without exception they all had been deeply

involved in ancestry worship and witchcraft. After the lectures on worldview they all share stories on how they would visit the witch doctors when they were ill. Now they understand that that is not God's will for us: He wants to provide. God can heal and we can put our trust in Him.... all the way. They have such a hunger for the Word of God! The women are positively shocked that they are included and can join full time in the program instead of cooking and taking care of the children.



Armino en Laurinda (who gave birth to little Sara on our veranda) had been kicked out of their house by their family for becoming Christians and for being baptized on top of that. We invited them to do a DTS with us. Even though they did not have a penny to contribute, they were eager to share their crops with the school. We milled their maize, so we could eat our beloved nsima (maize porridge). Bit by bit our school has been blessed and sponsored by generous people and together with the students we could learn about God's faithfulness and provision.

*Higher than the mountains that I face - Stronger than the power of the grave -
Constant through the trial and the change - One thing remains :*



building people ...

And now it was time for the first weeks of **outreach**. We took a third of the students with us to Sanga where YWAM (Youth with a Mission) wants to start a new work. We slept in tents under the mango tree in front of the chief's house and found many opportunities to share the gospel, even among the Muslim leaders of the village.



home vs. 'outreach-home'

The medical care that Sandra brings opens many doors and hearts for the message we want to share. We visit people, help them on their fields, eat together and are a much discussed part of the village for three weeks. They don't want us to go and they hope we will return soon. There are so many needs both physically as spiritually in our province that an outreach to a village like this has an enormous impact.



After 3 weeks **in the bush** the students had gathered so many real

life questions that when they came back in the classroom, they were even more interested in everything we taught them. After the last month of teachings we went on outreach for another 5 weeks. **Homeschooling Judah** continues in the bush like nothing special happened.



We help existing churches and ministries and see our students grow in courage, wisdom and faith. We dig and build a latrine for an old grandma that takes care of 4 of her grandchildren. While we pray with an old lady in Mecula, **we see God performing a miracle** by healing her non-functioning arm. It is difficult to describe the surprise on her face!



The return to Lichinga is one big party. All 3 teams have done a great job on their outreaches and with great pride I can hand over 17 certificates to these young disciples. I am so glad that we pushed through and that our DTS

adventure turned out so beautifully: Praise the Lord! We want to thank all people that have prayed for us and given generously to this DTS!



It is hard for me to express the sheer RELIEF and JOY that I feel with this next announcement: **we have a 'new' car!!!** After our wheels fell off for the umptiest time and we had to call in 'road aid' three times on a trip of 220 km (road aid = our faithful mechanic here in Lichinga). After lots of discussion, collections, prayer and saving, it finally happened. Since we had saved, since people already had given generously and since a few targeted sponsor events had already happened (flea market Andijk, take-our-beards-off from the Laman's), we could purchase a great car when the opportunity was there. I know a guy that knew a guy that knew a guy that was selling his car: a reliable car with everything that we needed (double cab, diesel motor, stick drive, 4x4) with less than 75.000 km under its belt for a reasonable price. It drives like a dream and is standing and shining right outside my door. Again a big thank you to all the generous givers. For the car freaks amongst us: it is a Toyota Hilux Raider, double cab, 3 liter diesel.

Your love never fails, and never gives up – It never runs out on me



... bringing LIFE !

Something that has happened quite some time ago, but that has **greatly impacted** us, was the sudden death of our brother-in-law Sjoerd (married to Frank's sister Marion). It was very difficult to hear through a phone call that he had a very aggressive tumor in his body. Immediately the doctors said it was inoperable so we flew back to Holland to hopefully spend some time together. However, when we arrived he was already in an induced coma. We arrived that morning on the 28th of March and arrived at their house at 13.00. Only a few hours later at 17.00 he peacefully went into the arms of Jesus. It was an emotional whirlwind of sadness and shock for the whole family, while at the same time we experienced God's peace. The funeral was impressive and significant and after that we had a good few weeks with Marion, Lucas (now 5) and Nora (now 3) to work through the first difficult period.

While the ministry among the Yao is growing rapidly, we have had quite some missionary friends leaving the field. Some couples have moved out because of health reasons, others to attend challenges in their marriage and we see that this whole missionary adventure can take quite some toll on our families. **Sandra** has had a difficult period in which everything was just too much and she struggled with depression. It has been the main reason why our communication practically stopped. We simply had too many matters to attend (sorry). It is also difficult to combine all this with running a DTS. It has been a process of a few months with lots of deep talks, helping each other and trying to be there for one another. After the busy DTS we could enjoy a wonderful vacation in South Africa and we are happy to say that we are in a much better place now as a family (and look here: a new newsletter!). We slowly learn to take more breaks and hope to

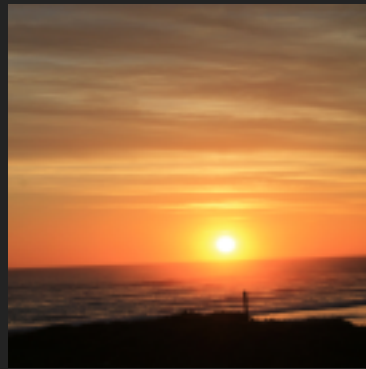
also apply this wisdom in 2018!

Most southern point
of Africa



Our **7-year old Judah** continues happily with the adventure called life. He has had quite a few 'first-times' during our holiday. First time in the cinema to watch an animated movie on a huge screen with popcorn. First time in a roller coaster in Capetown. First time swimming confidently in a pool. First time making sums and writing in English (Dutch is going quite well already). He grows, gets new teeth, he works, he play-fights with his dad and studies and plays games with his mom. Judah is just a great little fellow with creative and smart plans in his head.

In death, in life - I'm confident and covered by the power of your great love
My debt is paid - There's nothing that can separate my heart from Your great love



Rafaël
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We have received 6 wonderful visitors from the **Dutch Soccer DTS** from YWAM Holland. They joined us for a month of outreach. Great to see how they reach out to the children and youth of our city. Dutch faces are coming and going into our home for a coffee, a chat, some advice, a meeting and of course... WIFI!!



Daniel and Leoni Wierstra have visited us in May/June for 7 weeks. They already work with YWAM Heidebeek in Heerde (Holland) and came to 'spy out the land' to see whether the Lord would confirm their calling to Africa. We have shown them our work and life in any possible way. In the mean time they were a huge blessing to us: Daniel has been doing practical jobs around the house and on the YWAM center and Leoni helped to

put some structure into the start of our DTS. She also taught for a week! To make a long (and beautiful) story short: they are coming! At the beginning of 2019 they will come with their two small boys Rens (2) and Seth (0) to join our Lichinga team. They want to build their house next to ours. We are very much looking forward to helping them find their way in Mozambique.



Last year's food aid program has been very successful. With the money that came in we have been able to **help many (pregnant) mothers and their malnourished children**. This year we can also make a good start thanks to generous sponsors! Right now we have a stop for the summer (yes, it is quite warm here!) in order to prepare well for the coming year. Mothers and pregnant ladies are already coming to the door to inquire when the clinic will start again. A new plan for 2018: we want to visit the village of Mitava as a 'mobile clinic'. Mitava is about 7 km away, where also the ministry amongst the elderly is taking place.

The child mortality rate in Mitava is even higher than in Lichinga. There are many cases of anemia and malnourished children, so we would love to introduce our food aid program there. We will also help the YWAM pre-school in Mitava by providing a healthy snack for the little ones. They are exactly the vulnerable children in our target group we want to reach! And it is sooo much easier to learn new things when you have some healthy food in your tummy!

We are looking forward to what this year will bring; with your help we have started **our 10th year in Mozambique!**

With love, Frank & Sandra and Judah Obdam



Colophon

Frank, Sandra & Judah Obdam

Jovens com uma Missão

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"building people, bringing LIFE"

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*Because on and on and on and on it goes – Before it overwhelms and satisfies my soul
And I never, ever, have to be afraid – Your love remains.*