

Frank  
Sandra  
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Obdam



January 2014:

**about a chicken at church and other outreach stories,  
making mud bricks and a holiday in South Africa!**

**We wrote our last news letter when we were two weeks into our outreach. High time for some more outreach stories!**

Let's go to Meponda; a Yao fishers village at lake Malawi where we will evangelize. We pray and then go into the village two by two. Strolling through the narrow streets you'll hear people and you'll call out "odi odi" after which an "ééh" is returned.



It means they are welcoming you unto their property. They all immediately make time for us and rush to organize a place where you can sit: a straw mat or a cloth on their low veranda or a small (as in really tiny) wooden bench. Then comes the standard greeting: how did you wake up this morning?, which is repeated to everybody personally. Of course the answer is always 'fine', it is simply part of the greeting ritual. After this we explain that we want to share something about God and they give us all the time we need to share what ever we want to share (you can easily take an

hour if you want). After your initial story the people will give their reaction. Some just thank you and that was it. But the majority will have questions and questions are the sign that they are interested and want to know more. People are so open to hear about God. Often their family and their culture will hold them back to follow Jesus publicly but many have already made a choice in their hearts to follow Him.

**One thing is clear: what you do is much more important than what you say.**

That is why, next to hut-to-hut evangelism, we also help the people with their daily chores. For example we've spend one morning making mud bricks for our local friend Armino. The day before he already mixed earth with water (old fashioned mud treading) and the next morning we slapped the mud into the wooden molds with the whole team in order to dry them a little further on a clean field. Of course in the end everybody is covered in mud but it is fun to work together. And especially the fact that a white guy is getting his hands dirty is worthy of coming out of your hut to stare at. As in all small villages, news travels fast so everybody stops and calls their friends to talk about this exciting event. Followed by approaching our Yao students to ask what on earth is going on; awesome

changes to talk about the love of Jesus. Me, I was pretty impressed by the bible teaching that Sandra and I had given, but the people were much more impressed by the fact that we were willing to live with them, eat with them and work with them!



At the second night of our arrival, as we we just started to worship with our team, **a big light appeared in the sky above us: bigger and brighter than a star with a bit of a blue glow.** The people of the village didn't know what to think of it but connected this with our visit. Some were preparing to flee but others were in deep awe with this sign that the gods were sending them. This light has been visible in several countries in south east Africa that night but for these people it meant that we were very special visitors.



[www.franksandra.nl](http://www.franksandra.nl)

Rafaël  
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## building people, bringing LIFE

After Meponda we went to Itepela for the last 2 weeks. That Sunday we went to the local Yao church (a few posts with a grass roof and three benches). While the service is progressing **a chicken wanders into church**. Sandra: "Look Judah, a chicken in the church, that is funny". Judah: "Yes, she also wants to sing mummy... and then she will dance!"



Throughout all activities Sandra was teaching Merina (one of our students that was illiterate but not anymore!) and Zito (9 years old) who really never went to school because of the physical abuse of the teachers.

At the end of our outreach we had a fantastic BBQ! Frank together with other guys **slaughtered two sheep** (he now has 3 chicken, 2 goats and 2 sheep on his conscience as a butcher). It was a celebration of thanksgiving to the Lord for our wonderful time of outreach.

**Judah learned to speak proper Portuguese** during these weeks in the villages. However, one time he wanted to pray for the food so he would repeat Sandra's words. So she prays in Portuguese and ends with: "te amamos" (we love You) and Judah repeats: "Tia vamos" (aunty,

let's go)! After coming home he continued to speak Portuguese to Sandra for 2 full days. He still continues to mix up his languages: our multi-lingual child!

Back in Lichinga we saw all the other students again as they returned from their outreaches; there were **5 teams in total that went out to the three Northern provinces of Mozambique**.

29 students have had a life changing experience and are excited to tell other Mozambicans what God has done in their lives. We pray that they will continue to follow Jesus with all their heart. We also pray that in the coming years they will continue to grow into strong leaders in their home communities and churches.

In order to complete the picture we will look forward a bit towards **2014: we will lead the DTS!** This is a big challenge for us; we will live at the training center to be as close as possible to the next batch of students 24 hours per day. It is our biggest challenge so far: physically, mentally, spiritually and culturally!



Last month we were having a **holiday in South Africa**; what a beautiful country! We drove the

4.000 km with our own car through Mozambique, Malawi, Zimbabwe and the whole of South Africa in order to arrive in Capetown. Creation is so beautiful here and we had not one but even two oceans to choose from to go to the beach. We also really enjoyed going to the big malls where you can find everything that we do not have in Mozambique. We were relaxing and restoring from last year and really enjoying it. Thank you for your support in this last year! We could not have done without you. Onwards to 2014!

**Love, Frank, Sandra and Judah Obdam!**



### Colophon

**Frank en Sandra Obdam**

Jovens com uma Missão

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**Let's talk the talk AND walk the walk!**

