



March 2017:

about a truce, fortified porridge, **Sara**, a new office, car trouble and a food program...

During a brief stroke of enlightenment **the fighting parties in Mozambique have thought of a truce** from Christmas until the end of April, so there is finally a bit of calm in the country. Everybody can focus on their fields and the people are eagerly awaiting the new harvest for there is little to eat in many of the houses. We immediately notice the need for food in our local food program. We have invented and implemented a card system in order to improve this system. Now the fortified porridge is delivered to the children who need it the most. Last time I bought a bag of peanuts and a bag of beans, we went through that in about two weeks time: 22 kids received provision of fortified porridge for a month! This project is already going on for a year.



The baby that was born on our veranda is growing really well and here name is **Sara**!



Laurinda, her mother, previously has lost babies three times: still born and/or died straight after birth. Unfortunately this was mainly due to the caregivers in the hospital not giving good care. In this pregnancy Laurinda came monthly to our clinic for check up and we, like we do with everybody, prayed with her and thus it came about that she decided to come to us for the birth as well. Ámido, our worker is visiting Laurinda and her husband regularly and now they have decided to follow Jesus! Soon they will be **baptized**.

After a short summer stop (yes; over here it is summer AND rainy season at the same time!) we continued with renewed energy with our **clinic-at-home**. People already started calling it the 'white people's clinic', but we decided to call it '**clínica Rafael**'. Rafael – El Rafa means: God heals! Of course it is a reference to our home church: Rafael Almere at the same time.

Besides the two afternoons we now

are also opened one morning. Tuesday mornings 'my' student is running the clinic by herself whilst training a new colleague. In the afternoons I am there with a new colleague that I have started to train. The Thursday afternoon I still work together with Eugênia, so I can teach her more about pregnancy related issues.

The first few days we were open again, we cooked our **fortified porridge** on a fire outside. We explained things as the patients were waiting outside on the veranda. After the showing came the tasting and they all loved it! This way we are also teaching the mothers with healthy children that it is better to give their children more nutritious food instead of only the white maize porridge.

€ 1,- test for anemia
€ 2,- iron sirop for toddlers
€ 3,- vitamin for pregnant ladies
€ 4,- month of fortified porridge

We have started a **food aid fund raiser** in order to get enough financial resources to continue with the fortified porridge and the work in the clinic. A few euro's can already make a big difference in the lives of our neighbors. **Want to help?** See colophon or send us an email and please consider helping us with our projects.

Speaking about projects...





building people, bringing LIFE

I regularly say to Sandra: **"If there was just somebody who made sure that the car was running and water come out of the tap..."** the amount of time and frustration that I would save!".

Our red Toyota Prado keeps on giving us trouble every journey. Besides the fact that I need a new turbo soon, we constantly run into trouble when we are traveling. Last time trouble was when we hit the road to go to Malawi to buy medical supplies for the clinic. With a nice velocity of about 100 km per hour on a beautiful Malawian tar road, my left front wheel decided it wanted to go its own way. We skidded another 50 meter on the asphalt before bringing the car to a controlled stop. We had a lot of damage.



It took me five days to get all the parts and get the car going again. After that there was little time to do some shopping in Blantyre (instead of enjoying seeing a 'real' supermarket and other nice things in the big city) and then quickly return home again. We are really praying for a more permanent solution to this recurring problem. Also the water system remains troublesome. The other time the pump (just recently replaced) did

not work and we had no water in the house again. My biggest challenge is that I have to fix things that I know very little about and there is no 'professional' that you can hire. In the end we found a hole in the tube at 60 meter deep (that's not easy to spot) in the bore-hole. Great that that is working again. Now it is only the float valve that broke down for the third time in a row (sigh.... here we go again).



Praise the Lord we still have time to do our actual ministry down here! I am busy building an **office/reception/meeting room** at the Training Center. I check the progress daily, monitor the quality of the work and go buy things like cement, roof sheets, nails etc. It gives me great joy and satisfaction to design and then build things. The structure is already done and at the end of the month I hope to be ready with all the water taps, sockets, tiles and paint (I am bit ambitious, I know, but that keeps me going forward). If all goes well I will have enough time to prepare for the **Discipleship Training School** that we will be leading as of June this year. Much more on this subject in our next newsletter...



It is such a joy and privilege to **home-school Judah**! He has entered grade one officially and is starting to read and write in Dutch now. Soon he will follow with English as well. Math is definitely his favorite subject. We are doing the Sonlight curriculum with Dutch added to it. Theme for this school year is: 'introduction in world cultures' - well, we think he is seeing quite some culture already!

Love Frank & Sandra and Judah Obdam!



Colophon

Frank, Sandra & Judah Obdam

Jovens com uma Missão

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**Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass....
...it is about learning how to dance in the rain!**