



October 2013:

**about outreach in the bush, a belly dance, the first Yao-conference, birthday at the beach and 14 baptisms!**

**Welcome to the bush of Africa. While you are reading this, we are doing our outreach: the practical phase of our Discipleship Training School (DTS) has started!** For a little more than two weeks we are living in Chiconono, a village 110 km away from Lichinga, with 15 adults, 4 kids and 2 babies. In order to get some sweet potato or cassava (together with over-the-top sugary tea that makes our breakfast), we have to go out to the peoples fields. Tomatoes and bananas you should be able to buy at the market but today we even had to hunt down those basic things. Lunch and dinner are rice or maize porridge (nsima) with dried fish, beans or the leaves of the beans. We sleep on thin mattresses but we are thankful anyway: other team members are sleeping on even thinner, reed mattresses or just on a capulana (the multipurpose wrap-arounds that all women wear in Southern Africa.



And all of this because we are organizing a conference: the first conference ever for the people of the Yao tribe. Two hundred people came to meet God and each other, to sing together and to hear teachings. Many of them are the only Christian in their neighborhood of Muslims and have a big need to be encouraged and to see that they are not the only Yao Christian around. It means it is possible to be born into the Yao tribe and be a Christian! We had sixteen people being baptized during the conference and that is a growth of more than 2% in Yao Christianity. God is building His church amongst this unreached people group and we are part of it: that is super special!



**Our outreach in a nutshell:** we built up the conference terrain in Chiconono including the meeting hall/ tent and the kitchen and we cooked for about 200 people for a small week and then we took it all down again. In a while we will descend to lakeside Meponda where we will evangelize for 3 weeks and during the last part of our outreach we are going to Itepela where we will join a local YWAM team that lead one of the biggest Yao

churches and run a malaria lab amongst others. We'll do this for two weeks and thus finish the DTS in the first week of November.



**Judah turned three in August.** What can you buy him over here? We decided that we would take him a day to the lake for his birthday because he always likes that so much. Judah knows very well that with a birthday comes a cake. He calls the cake his 'birthday' and he wanted a chocolate cake. So a day in advance I made an oversize brownie for him that we could take with us to the lake. His friends and parents also came to the lake and we had a beautiful day and sang for Judah in 4 languages (Dutch, English, Portuguese and Afrikaans)!







## building people, bringing LIFE

### Another baby born in our house!

Isabel and Tomé (one of our workers) also do the DTS and Isabel was far along in the pregnancy of her 7th child. I helped during the delivery and for the first time in his life Tomé was present when his child was born. They wanted a real Dutch name and my parents were asked to name him and thus called him Pieter!



### Two months ago we had a wonderful baptism service.

During my week of teaching about the Father heart of God we read the story of the Ethiopian that met Philip and wanted to be baptized. One of the women asked me very directly (very uncommon within Yao culture): "but when are you going to baptize us because we are ready!" Turned out that there was quite a number of students that wanted to get baptized.



First I did a biblical teaching on baptism. I wish you could have been

there, it was awesome. For when we opened the bible (Romans 6) and I gave explanation, my translator could not contain herself anymore out of sheer joy. At once she understood fully what it meant to be baptized and started shouting loud 'halleluyahs' and clapping her hands together with the rest of my class. The next Sunday we drove down to the lake at Metangula with the whole team (about a 100 people). There we baptized 14 people in the beautiful clear water. The testimonies were special and we had a great party with loud singing and good food on the beach. This is why we do what we do!



### Many of our readers will know that our other worker Ámido and his wife Mariana are also doing the DTS.

First there was a lot of opposition on the side of Mariana's family. They are not only Muslim, they are also very much engaged in witchcraft. But the love of the Lord is stronger than all the fear and curses together and Mariana chose again to follow Jesus and was one of the people being baptized together with her husband Ámido. Mariana went to her family to say goodbye before going on outreach. Her mother asked her a bit aggressively why Mariana turned

Christian. Then came her beautiful answer: **"Because God had chosen me already when I was still in you womb!"**.

### Judah found out something new.

He knows that if you drink lots of water, you can hear the water making noise in your belly. So he will take a big sip and starts to wiggle his belly. If he doesn't hear anything he will take another gulp and starts his belly dance anew until he hears the water-noise in his belly. Haha, we very much enjoy our little man!

liefs van Frank, Sandra en Judah Obdam



## Colophon

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Everybody's got a seed to sow

