

Frank
Sandra
Judah
Obdam



Mozambique Mail

September 2016:

about furlough, a leadership course in Scotland, nannies, birthdays and work that continues (even when we are not there....)

A newsletter, all the way from Holland this time! We just got back from Scotland and are starting our proper furlough: we'll be in the Netherlands until mid-November. In Scotland we participated in a six-week course: LDC = **Leadership Development Course**. This is a course for missionaries in leadership position with a minimum of 5 years on the mission field. We felt the need for a serious 'overhaul' and some fresh input into our lives.



Seamill Training Centre

Since we both wanted to participate in the course, we needed someone to attend to Judah as well as to continue teaching him during the day: a nanny. The first good news was that we had a sponsor who wanted to pay for the extra costs of the nanny. Then we heard from Cornelie Sleurink (in 2008 we did our **Discipleship Training School** together) who was willing to invest her time-off work and come for the first three weeks if her boss would allow her to be away (and then people started praying and things started happening!). Sandra's parents could come over from Holland and look after Judah for the last three weeks.

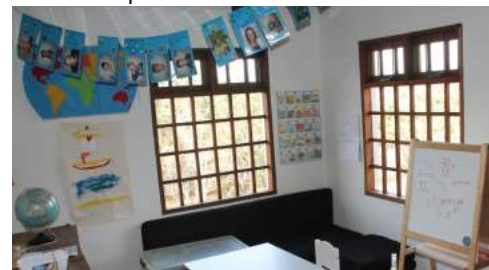


Earlier on in Andijk friends held a 'Mozambique- fair' and with the money that was raised Sandra's dad bought us a second hand car, so we have transport. After our furlough the car will be sold and the proceeds go to our projects in Mozambique. So that's how we went, with a car load of people and stuff. On the ferry from Amsterdam to Scotland and onwards to YWAM Seamill. What a wonderful time of restoration and renewal we had! **After 8 years on the mission field it was very important to check our work and life patterns: are they still healthy? Can we improve?** As a couple we have quite a few roles to play: husband/ wife, father/mother, project manager, administrator/ communicator, leader and teacher. Fulfilling these rolls in a developing country with a different language and culture can cause imbalances and exhaustion. That's why it was such a blessing to

spend time together to look back, reflect, pray, give thanks and start a new phase in our calling. It was greatly helped by the encouragement and guidance of the missionary veterans that were staffing the school. A big thank you to everybody that has given and prayed to make this happen. In our view it has been the best strategic move we could have possibly done.

Another big point of thanksgiving is the fact that **the extension of our house in Mozambique has been COMPLETED!**

Judah and Sandra already spent quite some hours in their cozy class room, we've had several visitors in our brand new guest room, tools that were dispersed throughout the entire house found a home in our new basement and the one-room-clinic is in full use... even now that we are not in Mozambique but in the Netherlands.



www.franksandra.nl

Rafaël
Gemeenschap Almere



building people, bringing LIFE

Meanwhile in Mozambique our one-room-clinic continues to operate!

In the 4 months that the clinic was open before we went to Scotland, Sandra has been training a Mozambican colleague, Eugênia, to continue to run the clinic. So far she has mastered to check and treat anemia in children, look for high blood pressure in elderly people and pregnant ladies, as well as analyze and treat basic diseases such as diarrhea, fever and coughs.

Also the food-aid program for malnourished children continues to operate.



We continually get updates telling us that the clinic is doing great and that Eugênia is already working with another trainee. We are thankful for continuance and even multiplication during our absence. One particular pregnant lady, Lukia, already lost 9 babies during pregnancy. She came to us during her 10th pregnancy, never having had the privilege of holding her



own live baby in her arms. Not once was her blood pressure taken in all her life. We saw her healthy growing belly and heard the heart beat of the baby. When Lukia heard that sound for the first time in her life she started to cry. However, her due date was far off and her blood pressure started to increase. We send her to the provincial hospital for medication against rising blood pressure and thankfully her body responded well. We continued to pray for her each time we saw her and she decided to join the bible study group that Eugênia and Júlio (her husband and Frank's language helper) run. She had become curious about the God that cares for her. Unfortunately the blood pressure increased and when it was time for her to be induced, there was no doctor in the hospital able to do so. The baby died just like the other nine and when it was time for the delivery, she was left all by herself. The nurses were sleeping during their shift... these are hard things to hear when you are on furlough. Despite it all, Lukia experiences God's presence and has decided to place her live in the hands of Jesus. Now she has a new family of christians surrounding her, no longer being the outcast lady without children but a **daughter of the God most High.**

During our time in Scotland we had many reasons to celebrate. August the 17th Judah turned 6 and had a wonderful party with balloons and presents and for the first time in his life grandpa and grandma were present at his birthday. Another 12 days later it was time to sing in many languages for Sandra!



Thank you for holding us in your prayers: Frank, Sandra and 6-year old Judah!



Colophon

Frank, Sandra & Judah Obdam

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