

Frank Sandra Judah Obdam



October 2020:

with an unexpected trip to the Netherlands
and starting small businesses in Mozambique



It is August 17; Judah's tenth birthday and he falls ill. In the course of the week he gets sicker and starts to see yellow... His blood is tested and an ultrasound is made of his belly. There is a mass that presses on his bile duct and he needs surgery. "This is a tumor and most probably a malign one", is the preliminary conclusion of the doctors. Judah has to go to the Netherlands as soon as possible...

Wow, this brings everything we do to an immediate halt. A sick child in the house is a sorrow of course, but this brings it to another level: 'he might be in mortal danger and you have to leave NOW'. We try to arrange everything but soon we encounter a big obstacle: how do we get out of here? It is corona-time and hardly any plane flies out of Mozambique. We contact the Dutch embassy, ask for information about charter flights, do online searches, but we find nothing. We need a miracle! 'Coincidentally', colleagues in Nampula city live next to one of the **MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) pilots**. They immediately make time to help

us, but in order to fly to another country we need special permission and normally it takes a whole month to get that permission. We (together with so many others around the globe) pray and already the next day we receive our **miracle: permission to fly to Tanzania!**

In the meantime Judah starts to recover a bit. He is still super tired, but a little less yellow. He starts eating and talking more and more. In the MAF airplane he is allowed to be the co-pilot and flies us for a little part of the trip. He loves it!



On Sunday morning, August 30th, we arrive in Holland and immediately drive to the Maxima Centre in Utrecht, pediatric oncology. There we are taken care off very well.

On the ultrasound the tumor is nowhere to be found and also his blood has no tumor markers. We take a deep breath of relief. Later in the week the planned the MRI scan is

canceled, and the oncologist explains to us why: Judah certainly has no tumor. Thank you Father! They do see swollen lymph nodes and they test some more of Judah's blood. Two days later I get a call from the oncologist (which is always a bit scary because why is the good man calling me all of a sudden???). The blood results are back and Judah has Hepatitis A?! But we had already tested and ruled that out in Mozambique, hadn't we? What about the tumor? As far as we are concerned, a miracle happened: Judah was sick, God intervened and then he got better very quickly.

And now 'all of a sudden' we are in the Netherlands! Time to recover from this roller coaster of emotions. We are very thankful for a support group that has united all its forces to get us into Holland. Also we are thankful for the time we can spend with our family and friends. Enjoying all the beauty that Holland has to offer. Enjoying the time in the churches where Frank has been given surprise opportunities to speak.

We hope to fly back to Mozambique in November.



"A journey is best measured in friends, rather than miles."
Tim Cahill



In Lichinga we very quickly handed over everything to our team.

All kinds of documents, signed in advance, one by one, find their way to Migration and Religious Affairs. Our Dutch colleague Leoni runs the mini-DTS (Discipleship Training School) with 15 students, Eugénia runs the clinic with a nice team of Mozambican staff; it's great that we're still going forward.



Mozambique is in dire straits at the moment.

It has been in the top 10 poorest countries in the world for years and the only resources there are, are the newly discovered oil and gas fields Cabo Delgado, our neighboring province. Since 2 years a terrorist group is active in this province, that presents itself as Al Shabab and link with the IS - Islamic State. Never has anyone looked at the people of this province, but now we have an explosive mix of Islamic thoughts, high unemployment, hunger, corruption and the presence of new gas fields worth billions. This is the perfect opportunity for terrorists to thwart everything and frustrate everyone. For a year now villages have been attacked and massacred and so entire areas are in the hands of

the terrorists. They are recruiting young people, also from our province. Last year we sent out a small but courageous team that is starting a new base in the capital of this province. They are on the outskirts of the area where the terrorists operate and are helping some of the tens of thousands of refugees who have left this region (for comparison: about 10 times as many as in Moria on Lesbos). In all this, the mainly Muslim population is pleasantly surprised to receive help in the name of Jesus. Or to use the words of an elderly woman who received food aid from team leaders Dinis and Balbina: "our Muslim brothers come and threaten our lives, but you give us food and pray with us: you serve a good God!"



Something new we are focusing on is **helping Mozambicans to set up businesses so they can be more self-sufficient**. This goes much further than just lending out a little money. We teach about finances and do individual coaching.

One colleague and his team of youngsters made and baked bricks out of clay. He can almost start selling and then comes the important moment of repaying and cleverly using the profits again. Another colleague bought a load of cane sugar and starts selling it little by little. Yet another colleague lives in a village where the nearest printer/copy machine is about 25 km away and he is now the local copy shop himself. He has already started paying back: the other day he brought 600 meticaís (7,50 euro)! We are very curious about the progress of all these projects **and with that... our hearts and minds are slowly turning towards Mozambique again.**

Thank you for making this journey together with us.

With love, Frank, Sandra en Judah Obdam!



Colophon

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Jovens com uma Missão
CP 114 Lichinga 90100
Niassa, Mozambique
info@franksandra.nl

Frank: 00258-865232532

Sandra: 00258-864877102

Donations: through Paypal on our website: www.franksandra.nl

