

Frank Sandra Judah Obdam



February 2021:

with: quarantine in the Obdam house, dynamics within the team and visits in our Niassa province!



What will 2021 bring?

Not yet the expected relief from Covid unfortunately.... But still enough beautiful things to fill a newsletter. So here we go: a new update from Mozambique.

When we returned from the Netherlands in early December, we unpacked our suitcases and started to settle down again. At the same time we had **a lot of 'odi odi's' at the door:** people usually don't knock on the door (and a doorbell doesn't exist here), but shout 'odi odi' when they are standing in front of your house. Because we had left super unexpectedly, there was a small procession of people who wanted to talk to us quickly about big and small things. Just in time we got the boxes with Christmas decorations from the attic and we were ready for Christmas, enjoying the company of friends at various places.

But what a hangover: one of our friends, with whom we spent Boxing Day, was going to travel, had to be tested and turned out to have Corona.

So..... quarantine in the Obdam house.

Day 1 and 2 were okay, but after that you become a bit lethargic. We finished watching Netflix and read the whole internet, and then after ten days we were invited for a test. Three days later the result - no Corona. That was on a Thursday and we were finally allowed back 'into the wild'. The next day Judah got sick and the day after that I (Frank) got sick.... Hmm... Could it be malaria?



No, the fever attacks aren't bad enough for that. An ordinary flu then probably. Until I (Frank) completely lost my smell and taste on day 4. Surreptitiously corona after all! Well; I'll just have to take it easy and **go back into quarantine.** Almost a month in the house, well, you try and make the best of it. Our version of corona is not too bad and after about 10 days I am back on top. Can we now finally go out and DO something????

We have officially started the year with the first leadership- and team meetings and we are having fun

planning for the time ahead. First, something about our Lichinga team. Due to various good but also less fortunate reasons, no less than 4 families went to other places. That is quite a loss. At the same time we are getting calls from people who want to join our team; a new group of potential staff members!

So we have no less than 13 aspirants in the pipe-line:

mostly former students we know from the different schools - WOW! Luke 10:1-2 says we should ask the Lord of the harvest for more workers. And we did. God answers and sends people. Now it is up to us to get to know this group of people, welcome them and integrate them into Youth With A Mission Niassa. Probably not everyone will become staff but we hope for a nice group of people that we can work with and invest in.

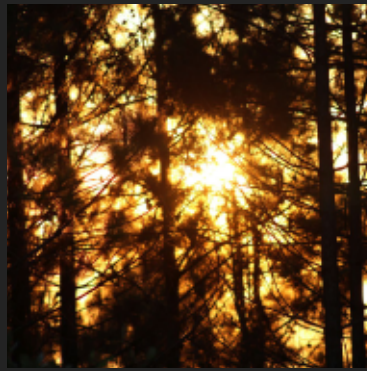


The neighbour kids greet us



Judah and Ámido eat TURTLE!

"Everything will be okay in the end.
If it's not okay, it's not the end."



As the very first guests this year, we had two outreach teams from the DTS

(Discipleship Training School) of Nampula Province visit us for a few weeks. Good dynamics at our Training Center and they took the gospel further into a number of villages without gospel witness. They will soon be succeeded by a DTS team from Brazil (also easy because they all speak Portuguese of course). One leader-couple of this team will stay at our Center to become staff. We just have to get them past all the red tape, but then we have our first addition to our team!



In and around our house everything is green, because we are in the middle of the rainy season. Immediately upon returning, we gathered a 'grass team' with whom we uprooted the entire backyard. Then we looked for grass at peoples places where we could pull grass from the garden for a fee. And then we planted everything by hand, one by one. The Garden Center with its beautiful ready-to-lay rolls of grass has not yet opened here. Very intensive work, but it is all there and is now starting to

grow beautifully dense (a process of 2 years in total). All fruit trees are starting to bear fruit as well: we are eating our fill of bananas and papaya and our avocado trees are also full.



The Holland level does diminish here as Daniel and Leoni Wierstra are in Holland for a well deserved leave. We will manage the house for them while they are away.

Finally, in between all the Covid protocols, **we try to visit everyone of our Niassa team for a time of encouragement**. Good to sit with everyone in their homes personally for a while and hear how they are doing. Furthermore we may often be the bringer of blessings in the form of food and/or financial support and that is because you people give with a generous heart - THANKS!



Overall, the work of Youth With A Mission in Niassa is going very well. **One of the highlights is Pedro** with his pioneering work in founding home churches and Bible training in the Yao villages. He started the year with unknown people knocking on his door out of the blue because they had heard God and wanted to give their hearts to Jesus. Wonderfully beautiful and special stories. On January 31, there was a baptism service because people wanted to publicly testify of their faith and follow Jesus with all their hearts. We continue cheerfully with our work: the meetings have started, the clinic is open again and hopefully our elementary school will also be up and running as of March 19. We also pray for you in these turbulent times: for peace and health.

Love from Frank, Sandra and Judah Obdam!



Colophon

Frank, Sandra en Judah Obdam

Jovens com uma Missão

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