



june 2021:

with: 'business as usual', special visit to Pemba, extending the health work and an 'epic trip'!

After a season of teaching and coaching on finance, we have moved into **a season of lending money to Mozambicans to help them set up businesses.**



We have 24 startups on the list and 1 or 2 are added weekly. The long term goal is to help them get to more self-sustaining so families have food on the table, get out of debt and build up something. There are a lot of obstacles to overcome and we can safely say that there is a high risk of failure. Most were taught at home that if there is money, you better spend it as soon as possible, otherwise you will never get what you want, because hunger is always there anyway. We do provide guidance, but of course that does not immediately overcome this cultural trait of dealing with money that has been built up over generations. On top of that, we also live in a country where natural disasters strike every so often: floods, lack of rain, windstorms and lightning strikes are a reality here that claim many victims every year. The other day our newest colleague called from Itepele: **lightning had struck her sister's house.** The sister

and her husband who were sitting on the porch were instantly killed, leaving their two daughters who were in the house as orphans.... In addition, the majority are poverty-stricken and hungry. So when you have something, everyone comes knocking on your door immediately and demands a share. Oh yeah, did I mention that every layer of government is as corrupt as it gets? Or in other words, a very difficult business environment.



Living examples:

1) An evangelist friend of mine often had illness and lack in his family. With the loan he set up a store at home. Outcome: business is going well, little by little they are paying back, there is finally a little income and the children have some proper food and are no longer sick all the time. At the same time, they regularly have deep conversations with their customers!

2) A teacher from our team has a store at home and the trade is starting to bear fruit but oh no; bad guys from the neighborhood see his trade and he is attacked at night by 4 men with machetes who threaten his family with death. Outcome: everything looted

and he has to start all over again....

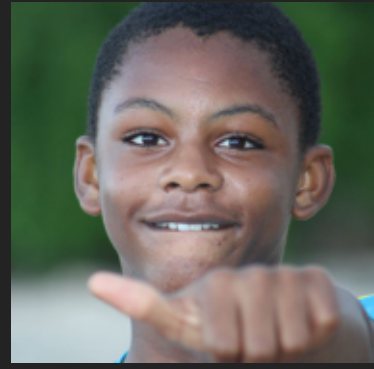
3) A newlywed couple starts a business. The woman is HIV positive and always wears a hat because her hair falls out and she is ashamed. While I help start their trade, Sandra gives health counseling and extra vitamins. The man turns out to be an adept trader and provides plenty of healthy food on the table. Outcome: the next time we visit, the man is enthusiastic about his trade and the woman has undergone a metamorphosis: her hair is growing again, the hat is off and she is beaming!

A lot of time goes into this: getting money from the bank (- pfff welcome to come along once!), communicating, teaching, following up, administration and thinking and praying together with the people. Yet it is special to see how all this is used in the Kingdom of God. We are grateful for NL support and together **we are learning more and more how to use money strategically as a blessing for local people.**



"May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears."

Nelson Mandela



For the construction of the **training clinic in Lichinga** (and for another clinic in Mandimba!) a container is coming from NL, Heerde. Thanks to a generous sponsor we bought the container and the SODA foundation (Stichting ter Ondersteuning Dokters in Afrika) is working hard to fill it with two roof constructions and all windows and doors. It will be quite a process to ship the container, organize all the paperwork, arrange transportation within Mozambique etc., but we are looking forward to another season of building projects. Amazing that our long-term dreams for our missionary existence (small-business and clinic) are becoming true step by step.



In the clinic many mothers and children come; exactly what we want! We always start with a word of encouragement from the Bible and it seems that the words we speak penetrate deeper into the hearts of the people; health for body and soul and spirit! Our colleague Natália, who helps us in the clinic, has joined our team in Mecula (further down our province) with her family and we have given her a backpack with vitamins and basic medicines,

together with beans and peanuts (porridge program), so that she can also offer health work there.



At the same time we are training 3 ladies in Mitava to detect and treat malnourished children in particular. I (Sandra) am extremely happy that the work is expanding to different villages.

More than 2 months ago we visited our colleagues Dinis and Balbina (who just gave birth) in Pemba. It is special to experience how God can bring you to the right place at the right time. As a midwife, I was able to step in and help and encourage my friend in a situation that otherwise would have become a drama.



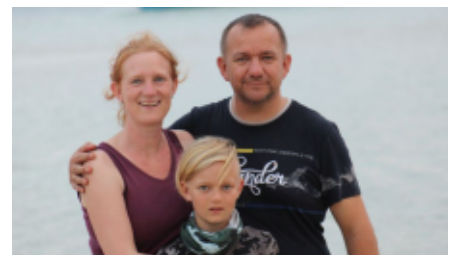
Benício, Balbina's son

At the same time, we were able to help with **strategic planning** for a future base, among other things, we looked at a few possible sites.

Judah couldn't be kept away from his childhood friends: Dani and Jô. We stayed at the house of our colleague Elia and enjoyed relaxed breakfasts and good conversations. To finish off, we were able to buy a bunch of Christian study books to strategically distribute to our colleagues in Lichinga, where good books are hard to come by. A special stay with special friends in a special time.

Meanwhile, we are on vacation in South Africa and conclude it with an **'epic road trip' along the east coast back to Mozambique**. Together with friends, we are visiting various bases of our organization (YWAM) to make new contacts and explore new opportunities... More about that next time ;-)

Love from Frank, Sandra and Judah Obdam!



Colophon

Frank, Sandra en Judah Obdam

Jovens com uma Missão

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