



## Newsletter December 2008

**Dear congregation, friends and prayer supporters,**

December has begun. In this month, almost everybody in the Netherlands is celebrating Sinterklaas, while here in Mali everybody is under the spell of Tabaski. The Feast of Sheep, called Tabaski, was celebrated on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> of December. A treacherous name, Feast of Sheep, as it is anything but festive for the sheep. Most male sheep will not survive the 'party'. Every Muslim family who can afford it, is supposed to cut a sheep's throat and to divide the meat amongst the poor. In Dutch this feast is also known as 'slaughter feast' or 'feast of sacrifice'. In doing this, Muslims commemorate the moment that Abraham wanted to obey God in sacrificing his son Isaac. Anyone with a little knowledge of the Bible knows that God intervened at the last moment, when he saw Abraham's faith. He provided and was content with a sheep. We know and believe that this sheep is pointing to the Lord Jesus, Who died for us as an innocent lamb!



Will you pray with me that many Muslims in Mali may come to believe in the Lord Jesus, the true Lamb of God!

### PRISONS AND PHILEMON CENTRUM



Our weekly visits to the male prison in Kati, the young boys prison Bolle in Bamako and the female prison Bolle in Bamako are steadily continued. It is tremendous to see the faces of the men in the prisons light up every time we bring them the Word of God, which is filled with relief and comfort. We try to accompany this with a loving gesture as giving them a piece of clothing or soap.

Unfortunately we had to decide last summer to stop visiting the prison of Koulikoro for the time being. This is due to the long distance, but the decision is mostly based on the obstruction of the authorities in this prison. To name an example; more than once the medicines we took with us for the prisoners were seized by personnel and taken home instead of taken to the prisoners.



This December we want to celebrate Christmas in the different prisons and suit the action to the word. We hope to visit Koulikoro as well, as we don't want the prisoners to be the victims of the authorities who reign there! The picture shows Pierre Teme and his wife Anne! He is the new leader of Philemon Centrum but he told us that the leadership is too much for him. He would like to leave as soon as possible!

This means that once again we need to find a new leader for the centre.

It is not easy to handle the boys with a loving authority. Please pray for a substitute for Pierre. Without leader the centre has to close!

End of November Drissa and Bakari left the centre without notifying anybody. This means that only Amadou and Mohammed are left in the centre. The fretwork project continues as usual. We were also able to buy a hand mill to grind grain, corn and other things (see picture).

We promote this hand mill for Johan Wachters, a Dutchman who lives and works in Mali for years.

- ***Pray that the Lord will touch the hearts of the authorities in the prison of Koulikoro.***
- ***Pray for the health of Anatole Seke, one of my team members in the prison work. Anatole suffers from kidney stones and is taking a heavy cure to pulverize the stones.***
- ***Pray for persistence of the Christians amongst the prisoners of Kati prison.***



## RAHAB MINISTRIES

October was a tough month in our Rahab Centre. It was very clear to me that some of the women had a negative attitude. It was even stronger than that; they had a rebellious spirit. I decided to fast for two days in half November, to seek God's will and wisdom for a break-through in this situation. The next Friday, after our bible lessons, I felt that I needed to share my testimony with the women and show them how the Lord has given me the Rahab Ministries in my heart and has lead me each step of the way. It became very clear that the centre is not Carina's, but it is owned by the Lord. That is why we have to fight together to worship Him in this centre. It was a very blessed morning with a lot of moments of confession and forgiving amongst each other. Two women confessed that they had a rebellious spirit and asked for prayer for liberation. What followed was a profound half an hour in which the demons literally flew out of the door of the centre! The Lord was in the centre that morning and that was truly a great experience.

End of October we said goodbye to Fatim Ruth. She has been in our centre for eighteen months and was baptized last year December. We also had to part with Richarde. After six months she wanted to return to Ivory Coast to take care of her children.



***On the picture, from left to right; goodbye to Fatim Ruth en Richarde. A picture of the whole group. Little Carina, posing on a self crocheted mat!***

- ***Pray for Fatim Ruth who now runs her own restaurant in Bamako!***
- ***Pray for Richarde who has left for Ivory Coast!***
- ***Pray for Nakadi, Aisha and Mam, the 3 new women in Rahab Centre.***

Precious, the ex-prostitute who sold second hand clothes in Bamako, has left to go to Nigeria the 2nd of December! In September we decided together that it would be better for Precious to return to Nigeria. Thank the Lord that she has payed off her debts here in Mali. Pray that she will be able to adjust back in Nigeria, as she has been in Mali since 2000. Pray that Precious will continue on the path of Jesus and that she will be able to resist the temptations of the devil!



I would like to ask your prayer for my night guard Luka. Luka is in a severe stage of AIDS and has symptoms of paralysis on the left side of his body. Pray for strength and comfort for his wife Sita and their five children.

Back to December. December has always been a month of cosiness and sociability! In Mali we want to try to visit a lot of prisoners and prostitutes in this month, encourage them with a present and tell them about the biggest Gift of all - 'the Lord Jesus' – who came as Saviour to this world with Christmas.

I would like to ask you, as my supporters, to think and pray for us a lot during this period. Pray for us as a team when we visit the different prisons, and also when we go to different places where the prostitutes are. Pray that the message of Christmas will reach and touch their heart, and that there will be several who will give their heart Jesus, maybe for the first time, maybe by renewal.

***At the end of this newsletter you will find my program for this Christmas. This will make it easy for you to be involved with us in prayer and thought day by day!***



*The picture shows my new Dutch colleague and friend Saskia de Poel and me. As of November she works as a doctor in the hospital in Koutiala here in Mali.*

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**Last but not least I want to wish you all a very blessed Christmas and God's indispensable blessing and lead for the New Year 2009. Can I count on your prayers and financial support for the New Year?**

**I am looking forward to meet a lot of you during my furlough form March 21 till June 20<sup>th</sup> 2009 !**

**Love and holiday greetings from your Carina**

***This is my program for the Christmas celebrations of 2008. This makes it easier for you to think of us and pray for us specifically!***

Monday December 15th 19.h00 Ghana bar after that 20.h30 bar Sam.

Two bars in which prostitutes from Nigeria and Ghana are working.

We will sing Christmas songs, bring them a Christmas present and tell them the Christmas story.

Wednesday December 17th 10.h00 prison in Koulikoro.

(One half of our team will go here. I will be joining this group.) A prison holding 110 men. Christmas celebration with songs and the Christmas story, telling them about the birth of the Lord Jesus. After that we will give out Christian literature, soap and cake to everybody. Around noon we will share a meal of delicious rice with a lot of meat and vegetables. The dish will be made by the women of the Rahab Centre.

Wednesday December 17th 10.h00 Big central prison in Bamako.

(The other half of our team will go here.) A prison with 1800 men. Almost a village on its own in the centre of Bamako.

Christmas celebration with the Christians in this big prison. Christmas story about the birth of the Lord Jesus. After that we will give out Christian literature and cake for the Christians, afterwards soap for everybody.

Thursday December 18th 9.h00 Bolle – femmes.

Female prison. At this moment there are about 90 women. The biggest group is under age. Christmas celebration with songs, Christmas story about the birth of the Lord Jesus. I will tell them the Christmas story myself in the Bambara language! Afterwards we will hand out gifts and candy to the children and soap and cake for everybody.

Thursday December 18th 11.h00 Bolle – mineur.

Prison for under aged boys, varying in age from 14 to 18 years old. At this moment there are about 130 boys. Christmas celebration with songs, the Christmas story about the birth of the Lord Jesus. After that we will give out Christian literature, soap and cake to everybody.

Friday December 19<sup>th</sup> 9.00 Rahab Centre.

Christmas with the 10 women, prostitutes and ex-prisoners who follow the training in our centre. I will also invite the ones that have followed the training but are no longer in the centre. In total, we will be with twenty-five women that morning.

Today, as always on Friday, we will listen to God's word.

I will explain the Christmas story in the Bambara language and I want to make a special invitation to the women to leave prostitution and follow Jesus. Pray for the special Christmas celebration! There will be presents for everybody and at the end of the morning we will share a special meal-of-love!

Saturday December 20th 9.00 Sewing-school of reverend Yiranou Traoré.

Christmas celebration with thirty-five ladies who are attending training at the sewing-school of reverend Traore. I give bible class here once a week, so I know these girls very well. Today we will celebrate Christmas together!

Monday December 22nd 10.00 Centre Philemon.

The shelter for ex-convicts. We want to give the boys a set of new clothes, and give them a couple of cd's and cassettes with Christian music. After the Christmas story we will offer them a meal and they will receive soap.

Tuesday December 23rd 10.00 Prison in Kati.

A prison in which 220 men are packed in only four prison cells. Christmas celebration with songs and the Christmas story, telling them about the birth of the Lord Jesus. After that we will give out Christian literature, soap and cake to everybody.

Around noon we will share a meal of delicious rice with a lot of meat and vegetables. The dish will be made on the spot by the women of the Rahab Centre.

Thursday December 25th 15.00 Christmas meal at Carina's with my single bible study group!

This is a group of 12 people who all are missionaries for different organisations here in Mali. Normally I have bible study with this group on Thursday nights. Before we will celebrate Christmas together, we will separately attend a Malinese service. Eat together, sing Christmas songs together, and share a time of prayer and encounter!

