



Carina Saarloos in Mali

Newsletter December 2006



**"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God."
Romans 8: 38-39**

Faith and Trust!

My faith and trust have been put to the test tremendously these past few weeks. This due to the situation with my dearest friend, Marjan Dijkstra. While working fulltime for the Lord in the Czech Republic, she suffered from psychoses and is completely unable to do anything. At the moment she is hospitalized in a psychiatric hospital in the Netherlands. Marjan is very scared and totally depending on the care and love of others.

My first reaction was: "Lord, how can this be possible. Where are you in all of this?" I wanted to get on the first plane possible to be there for her. But instead I had to discover that I am not the



solution for her psychoses, the Lord still has Marjan in His hands and will keep on holding her.

This picture shows Marjan with Aya when she was in Mali this summer.

Just this week, on December 19th, my 78 year old mother fell and broke her hip. She got surgery and will be in the hospital for a least 10 days and need to learn to walk again! Yes, on moments like that it is not easy to be far away from loved ones!!

Romans 8:38 says that nothing and nobody is able to separate us from the love of God.

Dear friends, whatever the depth may be where you find yourself in; do not despair! Even if it seems like you are going through a valley of darkness, Jesus is the Light of the world, who came to us with Christmas, to save all of us sinners.

Whatever the circumstances; He can be trusted!

- *Pray for healing for my friend Marjan.*
- *Pray for strength, trust and perseverance for Marjan's mother.*
- *Pray for healing for my mother!*

Rahab ministries

A few weeks ago we decided on a name for the work we do with prostitutes and other women with problems. The drop-in center is still called the Rahab-centre, and together with the training centre we now call this work Rahab-ministries.

The drop-in center is open every afternoon from Monday to Friday and is still visited very well. Several of our "older" contacts come by regularly for prayer, and it is almost every week that a new prostitute comes in for information and/or prayer. Aya is a good and reliable help in the open house, but the cooperation with our newest help Nyagali did not exactly turn out the way we expected. Nyagali is much closed mouthed and sometimes very absent minded. According to people that know her well this is a disease inside her. A very difficult situation, as her behaviour is not accepted by the women that visit our open house. When they see that Nyagali is there, they won't come in! So as a team we decided that from January on we would stop working with Nyagali. From the beginning of December we have help from an other Christian female. She is from our church in Magnambougou and is called Dorcas. She has a complete different character as Nyagali and is being accepted by our women visitors.

The training centre is going very well! We have had a tough month last November. We decided to adopt three Nigerian prostitutes in the project, while so many Nigerian prostitutes dwell in Bamako. Unfortunately this caused a lot of problems. The three women did not get along at all, and they attacked each other more than once with rocks and knives!



Picture shows: Linda, one of the three Nigerian ladies doing crochet!

They appear to have "old" problems amongst the three of them, that have not been solved and of which I know nothing. After extensive discussion and a lot of prayer we decided that the three ladies had to leave the centre as of the first of December.

The good news is that afterwards all three of them came to the open house separately to apologise for their behaviour. Of course now I hope and pray that some time soon they will come the three of them together!

- *Pray for the Lord's guidance in the life of Rahab employee Nyagali.*
- *Pray for reconciliation of the three Nigerian ladies; Linda, Thérèse en Viviane.*

After the Nigerian ladies had left the centre, it was all peace and quiet again. Despite the hard decision we had to make, I saw this as a confirmation for having done the right thing. As of the beginning of December we have started a new activity; colouring and printing fabric.



Fatimata busy colouring fabric.

Veronique and Koura between a couple of coloured fabrics.



Friday is still my favourite day in the training centre. Sometimes, the women cry when they listen to the stories of the Bible. It is very moving to see that. I know for sure that everybody is looking forward to these Fridays. The Lord is doing great things amongst these women.

Diverse

Precious:

Nigerian ex-prostitute Precious struggles with bleedings again and is very worried that she might need surgery again. Also, her shop in second hand clothing is not doing as well as it did in the past couple of years. Pray for wisdom for what to do for her as well as for me. Personally, I would like to see that Precious will be put into action in Rahab-ministries.

Centre Philémon:

Unfortunately the doors of this centre will not open this year. Reverend Andre Thera and his wife are in America for an indefinite period. This has to do

with health problems. As he is the driving force behind this project, this is really a pity.

Home assignment coming up !

As mentioned in my previous newsletter, I hope to set foot on Dutch soil on the 24th of March 2007. This will be for a short term leave of 3 months. Please note the information of the Home committee.

Dear family, friends and other supporters. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very blessed Christmas. I hope you will enjoy it and will remember the fact that Jesus came to us as the Light of the world.

I would like to thank you all for your moral and financial support. Without you I would not be able to do my job!

Last but not least, I wish you all a very blessed and prosperous 2007. Walk with Him, every day of the New Year and you will experience His peace in your life!

Dearest regards of your Carina.

Info of Carina's home committee

As members of Carina's HC we are looking forward to see her again this coming spring when she is up for leave!

Regarding her furlough, we would like to inform you the following. When she is in the Netherlands in April and May, Carina will be available for presentations regarding her work in Mali. Carina made it clear that she would like to give her presentations preferably on weekdays, so she can go as much as possible to her home church on Sundays. If you know other people who like to receive the newsletter by e-mail, please send there e-mail address to Carina herself.

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