

Carina Saarloos in Mali



NEWSLETTER JUNE 2008

Dear prayer supporters and friends,

1 Peter. 5:8-9 says: "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour: Resist him standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of suffering."

I am convinced that the devil is making all kinds of plans to get a grasp on you and me, Gods children, in order to try to defeat us. This means that we need to be on our guard. We have to realize that we are in a constant state of war with the devil. And we, you and me, are expected to withstand the devil in this war. He is no easy opponent! When we battle against him in our own strength we are powerless, for he is much stronger than we are! But we can win this war, because God is on our side, and Jesus has already won this war on the cross. Only in His strength and in wearing His armor we will be able to resist the devil, and emerge as victors of the battle. *"And the God of all grace will restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast"* say verse 10 of 1 Petr. 5.

Friday I asked my women of Rahab Ministries: "What would you do when the devil is knocking at the door of your heart?" Fatim answered: *"I will send Jesus to answer the door"*. We need to apply this advice in our lives! We have a mighty God who loves us dearly!

FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE AYA BACK IN BAMAKO !



At the end of May my friend and colleague Aya has returned from Ivory Coast. As you know, Aya left in September 2007 to see her mother and 32 year old son Soufiana who live in Ivory Coast. Aya spent eight great months with her family, and she has had a lot of good and blessed conversations about her faith with her mother. Her son Soufiana got married in April. His new wife is a Christian, and that is one of the reasons why Aya did not return any sooner. Aya did not come back alone! The picture in the middle shows Aya with five year old Mam. Mam was born in 2003 in Ivory Coast, during the war. Her mother died while giving birth to her. For the first nine months of her life, French soldiers took care of her. When the soldiers left to return to France, they left Mam in the care of the village chief, who has taken care of her until October 2007. From then on she was put under the care of the family of Aya's new daughter-in-law. At the beginning of 2008, this family entrusted Mam to Aya, when things were being arranged for the marriage. That's how it goes in Africa; you pay a dowry for your bride to be, and this can be anything!

It could be that you buy a few cows for the family or get nice clothes for the bride. Aya accepted to be Mam's grandmother, and as of February 2008 she takes care of her.

- *Pray that we will find a suitable and affordable house for Aya en Mam in Bamako soon.*
- *Pray that Mam will adjust quickly in Bamako and learns to speak and understand Bambara.*
- *Pray for Aya's part within Rahab Ministries. A lot has changed after she left last year!*

NIGHTGUARD LUKA AND PHILEMON CENTER

Lukas, or Luka in Bambara, has worked for me as a night guard for the past five years. Six nights a week he comes to my house on his bike and starts to work. He sweeps the street, waters the plants, washes the car when it is dirty and when all this is done, he sets himself on a chair just outside my gate. Luka is a nice Christian who is happily married to Sita for fourteen years. Together they have five children (see the family on the picture on the right). About one month ago, Luka was suddenly paralyzed on the left side of his body. After having undergone several tests in the hospital, the outcome is that Luka has AIDS. It was a tremendous shock for him and his family. I myself was having a great inner struggle, and was at first very disappointed in Luka. "What has he done that he has been infected with AIDS?", was the sole thought going through my head. At one point I was able to entrust it to the Lord. It is not necessary that I know how he got this disease. It is my duty to support him and his family, and assist them in word and deed. Meanwhile Luka can use his left leg again, but his arm and hand don't work quite so well. He has returned to his job as a night guard for 50% and works every other day.



- *Pray that Luka's left arm will be cured!*
- *Pray for wisdom for Luka and his family, so they will be able to accept the fact that he has AIDS. Pray that God will help him cope with this and that He will spare Luka pain and discomfort.*

ALL SORTS OF THINGS !



In Centre Philemon, the shelter for male prisoners, the fretwork training progresses steadily. At the same time a well of 25 meters in depth is being dug (picture on the left).

Some women of Rahab Ministries are cooling down in the pool after work is done. It is so special being able to laugh and cry together with them!



- *Pray that sufficient water will be found, not only for the centre but for the nearby village as well!*
- *Thank for the pleasant atmosphere and contacts amongst the women in Rahab Ministries. Continue praying for those who did not yet accept the Lord Jesus as their Savior!*

This summer I hope to welcome a couple of different guests from the Netherlands. On the 20th of June Katy, a young and enthusiastic lady from my home church, will come and visit Mali for 18 days. On the 15th of July Annelies will visit. She is an eighteen year old, enthusiastic girl who will do voluntary work in Mali for the period of one month. The last of these visits will be in September, when an other couple of my home church will pay me a lightning visit of four days!

- *Pray for a good and blessed time for each of my visitors here in Mali. Thank you for your sympathy and prayers for me and my work here in Mali, with dearest regards, Carina*

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