

Carina Saarloos in Mali



NEWSLETTER MARCH 2008

Dear family, congregation and friends,

It is already March 2008, high time to write a newsletter. There is a lot of news to tell and plenty of things to pray and thank for. First I would like to look back on my ten days in Ethiopia in January of this year. Just like two years ago, there was a conference and training for Christians who work amongst prostitutes. This time it was solely for those who live and work in Africa. It was nice to see some familiar faces and



truly encouraging to learn again from each other as well as from the Lord. I had to write down my own life story to make visible the hand of the Lord going through it as a read thread. I had to face the difficult times, in which I felt very distant from God, as well as the highlights. Things that I have not received myself, on a spiritual as well as an emotional level, I can not pass on to others. When returning to Bamako, I was very motivated to give our

traumatized women in Rahab Ministries better pastoral support. In order to be able to do that, my four female fellow workers need to receive more education and training from me. Every worker has been assigned two or three women for whom she is the tutor. This means that twice a month, she has real individual time with these women, once at the women's home and once in the centre.

- *Pray for wisdom for me in preparing and giving these trainings.*
- *Pray for Marthe, Lea, Angéla, Dorcas and myself when trying to be a good tutor for our women.*

PRISONERS IN KATI AND CENTRE PHILEMON !

On the fourth of March we had a baptism service in the prison of Kati. That morning I left my house and while opening the gate I felt a tremendous pain in my lower back. For a few seconds I was completely paralyzed and threatened to collapse on the spot. Anatole, one of my team members, was there and saw it all happen. He hastened to help, caught me and placed me against the wall. After this he prayed for me fervently. Couple of minutes later I was able to pray as well and I told the devil that he could not stop me from going to the prison that morning. After having said so, I went back into my house to find a couple of Ibuprofen tablets. Then we went on to pick up two other ministers and headed for the prison. The service was fantastic; eight boys were baptized in a basin of big, piled up bricks covered with a big piece of plastic. It was built on the spot! After that, we commemorated the Lords Supper with the boys. All of the 220 other prisoners were able to see all of this and it truly was a testimony. God gave me the strength to keep it up until all was over and to drive home safely. The next two days I just stayed at home and laid down and rested a lot.

Some impressions of the baptism service!



Water in the basin.



The 8 receiving baptism in line!



Sekou is ready!



There he goes!



Bah is a new creation!



Pastor Siaka Koeta



Commemorating the Lords Supper together!

- *Thank with me for the baptism of these eight young men. Thank that my back is cured!*
- *Pray that they will persevere and that they will pray with each other and read the bible.*
- *Pray that through them, other prisoners will acknowledge the truth.*
- *Pray that I will put on the armor of God every day, so I will be able to ward off the attacks of the devil.*

Centre Philémon, the shelter for male convicts, has to cope with a lot of setbacks. We are still looking for a young leader who is suitable and willing to live with the boys in the centre and take care of them. Now and again the boys have a quarrel amongst themselves. This month we hope to dig a better well and construct a water reservoir to improve the water supply. This will be done with funds from the Netherlands. The boys also receive training in a sort of fretwork. They sit on some kind of bike and through cycling the blade goes through the wood and makes all kinds of shapes!



- * *Please pray for this centre.*
- * *Pray for a true leader!*
- * *Pray for the digging of the new well in March.*
- * *Pray that the fretwork project will be a success.*

Dear friends, we serve a great God who wants to hear our prayers. When I had problems with my back I noticed

the difference very well when your prayers were sent up to the regions of heaven. When you pray, God can work! Please continue with this intercession for me and the work here in Mali, especially in the hot months March, April and May!

Dearest regards from your Carina!

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