

Carina Saarloos in Mali



Newsletter March 2010

Dear colleagues, friends and supporters,

A while ago a good friend of mine gave me the diary "Grace for the moment", written by Max Lucado. On the 1st of February I read the following, based on **Galatians 6:7: "A man reaps what he sows"**. Imagine that your heart is a greenhouse. Just like an actual greenhouse, your heart needs tending. What if your thoughts are seeds that are sown into your heart? Some of these thoughts will turn into flowers, others will become weeds. Sow seeds of hope and you will harvest optimism. Sow seeds of doubt and you can expect insecurity. The proof is everywhere around you. Don't you ever wonder how some people are able to resist the negative and can remain patient, optimistic and forgiving? It is possible that they have arduously sown the seeds of goodness and can rejoice in the harvest. And why are some people looking grumpy all the time, or have a joyless attitude? Maybe that is what you would look like if your heart were a greenhouse filled with weeds and thorns! **Oops, time to check out if there are weeds between the flowers of our hearts! And if we find any; time for spring-cleaning!**

RAHAB CENTRE

These past months people were coming and going in and out of our centre.

At the beginning of January, Angela lost her brother in law and was very shaken up about that. Angela is the female half of the couple that is in charge at our centre. She and her husband Anatole moved to Mali in the year 2000, and they have not seen their families who live in Kinshasa since. With this in mind I decided to put Angela on a plane so she could be with her family. The Lord provided the money and Angela stayed with her family in Kongo Kinshasa for one month (*picture left*).

In this same period my colleague and friend Aya Doukoure left us for good. She went to Ivory Coast to be with her family. Those of you who know me well know that Aya and I have been friends for years. Aya became a Christian in the year 2000 in the Bouake prison in Ivory Coast and has been part of my life ever since. I talked to her on the phone last week. She said she was doing fine and was very happy to be with her old mother, her son Soufiana and her granddaughter. (*the picture shows Aya and me on the day of saying good-bye and Aya in the women prison*).

At the same time Fanta Dembele passed away. She was a widow and 47 years of age. Since August 2009 Fanta was our teacher in the literacy project. Furthermore, she was teaching the women on topics like; healthy food, hygiene, raising your children and so on. In the six months she has been with us, Fanta left a big impression on the women of the centre and me. The personal relationship she had with the Lord made her glow. You could also tell by the way she was teaching that she was full of her Lord. Fanta knew that she was infected with AIDS for a couple of years, but despite that she remained passionate for her Lord and Saviour until the end. (*picture on the right*).



On the 26th of February we said good-bye to five women who attended our training program for at least six months. They received a certificate and 100 euro's each to start their own project with a micro credit. Now it is up to them to start practicing what they have learned. Since the beginning of March four new women started the training program: Barakisa, Satan, Sita and Chantal. I will tell you more about them in my next newsletter. *(the picture shows Fatimata receiving her certificate!)*



17 Year old Yaye, mother of baby Musa, took off at the beginning of January. Once again she is working as a prostitute at the bus station. As heart breaking as it is, the only thing I can do is let her go. She knows where to find us and it is her decision how she lives her life.

14 Year old Jelika still lives with us but decided she wants to be with her family. She will leave before the rain season starts (June – September)

- **Thank for sympathetic people in the Netherlands and in Mali who made it able for Angela to fly to Kinshasa.**
- **Thank for Aya settling down in Ivory Coast. Pray that her old mother will start to believe in Jesus Christ.**
- **Pray for perseverance for the four children of the deceased Fanta Dembele.**
- **Pray for persistence for Aminata D., Aminata F., Asa, Fatimata and Awa, the five women who left our Rahab centre and are independent now.**
- **Pray that Yaye will come to her senses and will give up prostitution for good.**

PRISON WORK AND PHILEMON CENTRE

It is getting quite hot in Mali with temperatures rising as high as 43°C during the day. Inside the prisons it gets burning hot. There are so many sick prisoners that the doctor is tied up all day. Together with the team



we are negotiating with the authorities to get permission for part of the prisoners to stay on the porch outside of their cells during the night. This will provide more space and temperatures that are a bit more pleasant.

The much needed well at Philemon Centre is still not working properly. Another attempt to make the well even deeper will be started this month. Since we can do nothing without water it is crucial for our boys to get this thing going! **Will you please pray with us that this project will succeed?**

(the picture shows the boys of Philemon Centre on top of the well)

Personally I am very grateful to be sleeping well again, despite the heat. My sleepless nights stopped somewhere around half of January. But the thought of my mother Jo being sick occupies my mind a great deal. On the 26th of January my mother of eighty years old fell and broke her hip. After being hospitalized for four weeks she is now admitted to the rehabilitation ward of nursing home the Samaritaan in Sommelsdijk! There is still a long road ahead... **Please pray for recovery and courage for her for every day!**



As of the 18th of March until the 28th of April candidate missionaries Arjan and Rozemarijn de Waaij will be in Mali. They have two children, one is 3 years old and one is eight months old. Please pray for them, for good health and energy in this extremely hot period. Pray that the Lord will show them their way for the future!

Last but not least I want to thank you for your loyal financial donations

which I receive monthly. Thanks a lot for all the birthday congratulations I received through e-card or e-mail. You are the greatest!

Dearest regards from your Carina!

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