

Carina Saarloos in Mali



NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2007

Dear family, congregation and friends,



Jezus zei tegen Zijn gastheer: "Wanneer u mensen uitnodigt bij u thuis te komen eten, vraag dan niet uw vrienden, broers, familieleden of rijke buren. Want die kunnen u op hun beurt ook weer uitnodigen. Nodig in plaats daarvan de armen, kreupelen, lammen en blinden uit. Die mensen kunnen u niets terug geven. Daarom zal God u belonen als de rechtvaardigen weer levend worden." Lukas 14:12-14

Christmas is coming, and I think it is good to realise what the real meaning of Christmas is in our modern world. Jesus came as the Saviour of the world and He wants to use you and me to announce this message. Are we prepared to let the people in the world know that they are lost unless they have the Lord in their lives? As written in Luke 14:12-14; will we go to the people who cannot recompense us simply because they don't have the means to do so? For that reason we as a team in Mali, will go out in the week before Christmas to visit prisoners and prostitutes, to tell them about the Saviour who came in this world to save those that are sick and lost. We will pass on

the love of the Father and offer them a table richly set.

In my own home church, the CAMA Christian congregation Middelharnis, they are organising "Back to Bethlehem" for the second time. This is a sparkling Christmas Eve service, meant to reach out to those who usually don't go to church. For me, I will go and visit all the people living in my street on the 25th of December, to wish them a blessed Christmas. I will take with me a bag filled with tea, sugar, cookies, candy and Christian books, and give it to them. In doing this I want to show them a little of the love of God. On the 20th of December they have already celebrated the Tabaski-holiday and butchered a sheep in order to cleanse themselves before God and the people around them.

What will you do with Christmas? What will be your testimony in your neighbourhood?

Rahab Centre



One of the highlights of December has been the baptism of Fatim Souleymane, one of the ex-prostitutes in our Rahab Centre. On the 15th of December Fatim and 421 others went into the grave of water. On this day 21 CAMA churches organised a baptism day together. It was an enormous celebration and it was very moving to see Fatim there. At her request Fatim is now called Fatim Ruth. She

added the name Ruth as a Christian name because she found and accepted the Lord her Saviour in a different country than the one she is originally from, that being Togo.



Fatim Ruth is an inspiring example for the other women, and as a team we decided to keep Fatim Ruth as a team member in our centre long term. This means we now have three women who are definitely with us; Fatimata, Coura en Fatim.

I want to ask you to pray with me that these three women will be an example and inspiration for all the women that visit our centre for a longer or shorter period of time.



The left picture shows me with on the left Coura and on the right Fatimata!

The right picture shows Fatim Ruth with Coura's little girl!



Prison work

Below is a short picture impression of the Christmas celebrations in the prisons this past week!



Big bowls with food; plenty for everyone!



One of the prisoners eating until he is full!



New clothes for the prisoners which means posing in front of the camera!

Dear friends, I would like to take the opportunity in this newsletter to wish you all a very blessed Christmas and Gods nearness and lead in the New Year 2008.



Also, I would like to thank you all for your support in 2007. Your prayers for me and my work were needed badly and made the difference in my service. Your financial support made it possible that I had my grub and bub here in Mali, and to do supporting work amongst the prisoners and prostitutes. Your cards and e-mails were my vitamins and encouraged me at times that were tough and lonely. I want to ask you and impress on you to continue with all these different ways of support in 2008, I need it to be able to function here as a missionary in Mali!

Dearest regards, Carina Saarloos

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