Newsletter June/July 2009

Dear family, homecongregation, friends and supporters,
I am writing this letter to you from Mali. I am fascinated by the story of the true vine in John 15. Jesus is the TRUE vine, He is not a copy, but He is the real One and the Father is the gardener. You and I are the branches and our only goal is to produce fruit for the gardener. We are totally dependent of the vine Jesus to be able to produce fruit. Therefore we need to be completely dedicated and depending only on Him. All the juices that are in the vine are meant for the branches. He wants to give us so much. The only thing we need to do is to reach out for it and stay joined to Him. Without Him we can not do anything!

RETROSPECT OF MY FURLOUGH

The three months of leave that I had were over before I knew it. Every time my leave is too short to meet everyone in person and to talk to everybody. I enjoyed the springtime very much; taking my daily walks and visiting the flowers at the Keukenhof. I could catch up with my friend Marjan, I had a lot of dinners with many of you at your homes, I gave presentations and lectures throughout the country and I spent a week sailing on the boat Siloam on the IJsselmeer, meanwhile enjoying bible studies.

The absolute highlight was the good contact within my own family, my mother, brother and sister and their families. To top it off some of them promised they wanted to come to Mali in 2010. It will be the first time since I left for Africa that relatives will come over to visit me!
It has been a tough leave for me, also because of difficulties my home church is going through. It made me realise that it is God Himself who is building His congregation. And that makes sense, since He is the gardener who is watching over the branches. It has also led to a deeper relation with several parish members. So you see that God let's all things work for the good of everyone who loves Him.

Some impressions of my leave in pictures!

RAHAB MINISTRIES

Seeing the team members of Rahab Ministries as well as the women of the training program was overwhelming. Each and every one of them was so happy to see me again and made sure I knew that too! With the team we evaluated and we can thank the Lord for the lock, stock and barrel of Rahab Ministries. Our main problem at this moment is our lack of space for our training program. We have a small room where the women are packed like sardines, especially on Friday mornings. We would love to have a classroom with a court yard where the women could batik, amongst other things. It is our vision to rent a house that has a fairly big outer court. The living room could serve to be our classroom. We would also have a couple of bedrooms we could use for helping the women who do not have a place to sleep. At the end of the month July it will be time to let a couple of women go to make room for others who are on the waiting list. This month the team and I will go out on the streets again to meet new girls and young women, to show them the love of the Lord Jesus.

- ***Thank the Lord that there were no big problems within Rahab Ministries during my leave.***
- ***Pray that we will find a bigger space for the training program soon, so that it will function better and will enable us to help more women, pray also for the right person or couple to live there with the girls.***
- ***Pray that we will reach the hearts of the young girls on the streets and that they want to be helped.***

IN AND ABOUT MY HOUSE

My night guard Luka passed away on the 6th of June. He died of AIDS at the age of 34, leaving behind his wife Sita and five children. All in all everything went quite fast. According to his younger brother Jean, who lives in Bamako, Luka did not suffer much. I hope to visit Sita and the children (see picture) in July. About four months ago they moved to a village that is a seven hour-drive away from Bamako.

The first personal encounters with Aya after my furlough have been good and gave me hope. Aya took her role behind the scenes very well and that gives way to recovery and forgiveness. I really want to invest in this friendship and want to help Aya to straighten out her relationship with her Lord and Savior.

My loyal German shepherd dog Bandit keeps having problems with his health. His ears remain to be filled with blood and each time they need to be drained. According to my colleague-doctor Saskia he has a lack of vitamin K what prevents his blood from coagulating. So he is on a diet with lots and lots of vitamin "K" in it.

- **Pray that the Lord will comfort Sita and the children and that He will provide in their daily needs.**
- **Pray that the Lord will speak to Aya and that she will let Him heal her.**
- **Pray for total recovery of my back and emotional health!**

Dear friends, thank you for your prayers and moral support. Before long I hope to get a weblog started on my website so I can inform you more properly.

Dearest regards of your Carina

Carina Saarloos
Mission Protestante CMA
B.P. 2233 Bamako – Mali
Tel: (00223) 20-22-02-64
mobiel (00223)- 66-74-88-78
E-mail: csaarloos@cama.nl
website :www.carinainmali.nl

Gifts for this work among the disenfranchised people are very welcome at:
C&MA P.O. box 35000
Colorado Springs CO 80935
For C&MA Mali
Saarloos work special account nr. 310240