

Carina Saarloos in Mali



Newsletter September 2009

Dear family, colleagues, friends and supporters,

Summer and holidays are over in the Netherlands at least and all activities in the churches have started again. I have had plenty of circumstances these past two months that tried to attack my joy. In my last newsletter I talked about staying joined to the true vine from John 15. This time the verse is from that same part. Verse 11 says: **"I have told you this so that MY JOY may be in you and that your JOY may be complete"**. When Jesus says: 'My joy', what does He mean with that? What kind of happiness / joy did Jesus have? Oswald Chambers says: "Jesus found His joy in His total surrender and sacrifice to His Father. His joy was to do the one thing his Father had sent Him here to do. Jesus prayed that our joy would get complete, up to the point that we would share His joy. This means that my life should not find its fulfillment and joy in physical health or events like opening a new Rahab Centre. My joy should be in the perfect understanding of God and the relation with His Son Jesus. But how many times am I taken up by the sorrow of the world and the daily circumstances! Like the two times that 380 V electricity went through my house with all the consequences of that. Or the prisoners who are ill-treated. Or a police inspector who tries to get money out of me over and over again. These are all circumstances that try to rob us from our joy. Dear people, you and I have to make sure that our daily contact with the Lord is right. We have to go and find our joy with Him. Only THEN will our joy be complete and will the streams of living water flow from within us. Electricity failure or not!

NEW RAHAB CENTRE

In my last newsletter I asked you to pray for a bigger space for our training program. Since the beginning of August we occupy a new building, a house with a round living room that will serve us perfectly as a meeting space - or even a church room if you like - three bedrooms and an amazing court yard.

The pictures give an impression of the new centre and the opening!



The top row of the pictures shows the painting of the centre, the cake that a colleague baked and decorated for the opening of the centre at the 21st of August and Anatole and Angela Seke (the couple that lives in the centre as foster parents). The second row shows little Carina Seke cutting the ribbon for the official opening. Then you see Yaye and me. Yaye is 17 years old and seven months pregnant. She lives in the centre. We have reached a new stage in our ministry and serve as a half-way house for a few girls. The last picture shows a moment of prayer. Several ministers prayed for our team on the day of the opening. The Seke family lives in the centre with three women: Yaye, Sara and Biba. At the beginning of August Aishata was also living in the centre but she took French leave after only ten days. The new centre is not only a shelter but in the daytime it is also a training centre. Tuesdays to Fridays a number of women come over. They have their own place to sleep and come to the centre for training. In the late afternoon the centre is for those who need an open ear or prayer, a drop-in place !

Since the beginning of July I keep a weblog where I write about my work and my daily experiences here in Mali. It is only in Dutch though ! The link is: <http://carinainmali.blogspot.com/>

- **Thank the Lord with me for the new centre. Pray that the donations that are made to the Carina Project fund will be sufficient to pay the rent and other costs.**
- **Pray for the Seke family and the girls that live with them. Please pray for the seven months pregnant Yaye in particular. Pray that she will be fine during her pregnancy. Pray for Aishata as well, the girl that took off.**
- **Pray that many hearts will be touched in our centre and that lives will be changed for good!**

PRISON WORK

Visiting the prisons with our team continues as usual. The past couple of weeks I was visited by three dutch volunteers of which two are nurses. They have spent a lot of time in the prisons. They brought a lot of multivitamins from the Netherlands and have done a lot of medical work in the prisons. They played with the children and did some games with the women in the womens prison. In several prisons they performed a sketch which was called 'the chair'.

It shows how a person can totally be taken up by his sins. Only praying to Jesus can set him free. The girls also baked heaps of prawn crackers for the opening of the centre.



A lot of prisoners suffer from malnutrition. As a result we had to bury three young boys from the prison in Kati in August. The womens prison accomodates a lot of young girls at the moment, all about 15 and 16 years old. They are open to change and very sensitive for a little love and attention. Unfortunately the prison personnel treat them very bad. Biba, a 15 year old from the women's prison was released early September. Her family rejected her here and that's why I took her with me to the Rahab center. She is doing fine and learning a lot !

- **Thank for Suzanne, Paulien and Idwer from the Netherlands and for the blessing they were here in Bamako.**
- **Pray that the prison executives make wise decisions , that their hearts will lead them and that they will help their prisoners wherever they can.**
- **Pray for physical and emotional healing for Fatimata in the womens prison. She was knocked about by a guard quite severely!**

Dear friends, thank you for your prayers, finances and moral support.

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
<http://carinainmali.blogspot.com/>
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