

# Carina Saarloos in Mali



## Newsletter June/July 2011

**Dear colleagues, friends and supporters,**

After a three month visit to the Netherlands I am back in Mali again. These past few months I was shown over and again that life consists of seasons, just like the weather.

**Gen 8:22 “While the earth remained, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.”** The Dutch climate has four seasons, whereas the climate of Mali only knows two. I deeply enjoyed the spring in the Netherlands. The soft breeze, the sunshine, everything blossoming and the tulips blooming in full. Every season has its own charm, but we do not always like what each season brings us regarding rain and temperatures. But just like the earth knows its seasons, our life also has them. We can see them in youth, maturity and old age for example. But we can also recognise seasons when we look at things that happen to us in life. Spring could be the symbol of a time of promises and expectations. Summer would then be the time in your life when everything is blossoming, your life is richly blessed and everything is going smooth. Autumn, on the other hand, brings decay, loss, deterioration and gloom. And during winter it seems like nothing is happening; everything seems dead and dark. This past furlough was truly “summer” to me. A richly blessed, prosperous time. A time to enjoy and a time to strengthen friendships. A time to celebrate, but also a time to lay in a stock for “difficult” times. In short: thank you all, sweethearts! Thank you for the lovely encounters I had with you, you truly spoiled me and gave me new strength!

Below you find a short impression of my furlough in the Netherlands and vicinity. For more pictures, check following link: <https://picasaweb.google.com/carsaarloos/CarinaOpVerlof2011>



Mother Jo at my furlough house.



Posing between the tulips.



My new home front committee.



Carina at her best!



After a presentation.



Special week in Spain with these fascinating women.

One of the highlights during my furlough was meeting the members of my new home front committee. It is remarkable how the Lord gave me these five special persons. At the end of this newsletter I would like to give them the opportunity to introduce themselves to you.

**•Thank the Lord with me for this richly blessed furlough!**

**•Thank for Rogier, Desiree, Rinus, Ingelien and Vanessa, the five members of my HFC.**

**Please pray for strength, wisdom, sensibility and unity for them to be able to fulfill this task.**

## BACK IN MALI

Back in Bamako, I found my house clean and in good shape, and I even found fresh mango's in my refrigerator! Talk about being spoiled!

On the fourth day after my return however, I received a water bill for 80 euro's for the month of May. Since I was in the Netherlands in May, I immediately started to think that someone messed with the bill, OR... that there might be a leak in the pipeline. After a thorough inspection of the meter and discovering a 70 euro bill for the month of April I decided to get professional-plumber-help. It took him a couple of meters of digging before he found a huge, gushing leak. After his discovery it started to gush from the sky as well, so the work was delayed quite a bit while all the mud quickly found its way in to the street. A couple of hours of slaving later, the plumber and the bricklayer managed to get the job done. Two meters of brand new pipeline and a closed and secured hole! Bring on the new water bill!

At the time of writing I am back in Mali for a week and we have had rain four times already. For June that is quite a lot. Normally it rains once a week before it gets a bit more in July. People are happy with the rain, although it causes some big traffic problems. Today I was driving home through 30 cm of water; it is hysterical to see motorbikes do the same thing! Below some pictures of this week.



Start of the hole; how to find the leak! All these mango's for €0,50!



Delivery of the new couch!

## RAHAB MINISTRIES

This past week I met the management team and the women that are teaching at the Rahab Centre. It was good to see everybody. They in turn were happy to see me and very enthusiastic. They complimented me with the way I looked. Returning in Mali with a few extra kilo's of "me" means for the Malian that my friends and family in the Netherlands took good care of me. I thought it best not to say that I was not happy with it at all and want to get rid of these extra's as soon as possible...! The earrings I brought from the Netherlands were a huge success and were put in the ears right away.

The management team did very well during my three month absence and I am very proud of them. The rain caused me to be stuck in the centre a couple of hours last Thursday. It gave me the opportunity to catch up with Ba Febe, our "mother superior". She brought me up to date and my Bambara (which was a bit forgotten during my furlough) was put to the test right away! Last Friday I gave the bible lesson myself. I want to start with the letter of Peter, but I used this lesson to strike the importance of the Bible once more. I gave the women handles how to take God's word to them even if they can't read themselves. With thirty women the centre was packed. Time will tell if they were there because Nyagali (me) was back again or if they wanted to listen to God's word and to pray. At the end of the morning 16 women came along to visit Mariyam Diarra. For over two years Mariyam helped in the centre, teaching the women how to batik and make soap. In April she gave birth to a daughter named Adiaratou.

Thanks to EO-Metterdaad who gave me this great car four years ago, I was able to deliver two fully loaded cars and to hand out presents. We sang a song and some of the women prayed for Mariyam en de baby. Since all of this takes place outside where everybody can listen in, these are the opportunities to tell about Jesus!



Friday morning in the centre



Visiting the new baby



Carina and Adiaratou

•**Thank for Ba Febe, Maman Marthe, Lea and Dorcas; for their dedication and passion for the women and activities of the Rahab Centre.**

•**Thank for the good delivery of Mariyam. Pray that she will persevere in her faith now that she is no longer in our centre.**

## START of the introduction of the new HFC



My name is **Vanessa Hobbel**. I was born in January 1979. I have known the Lord since childhood. Having a passion for children I ended up being a teacher. Still I had the idea that the Lord wanted me to become a missionary and I had my own ideas of how that was going to take place. I started the Disciple Training School of Youth with a Mission in 2005, but things did not exactly turn out the way I expected! What I DID discover there is how important it is for a missionary to know that your home front committee is there for you and how crucial the role of prayer is. And I love to pray! Being in the presence of our heavenly Father and our High Priest! Even when I don't know what to pray; He gave us His Spirit who pleads for all saints! The power of the prayer does not lie with the one who prays but with the One who hears it! So, when Carina asked me if I wanted to serve in her HFC, my heart leaped up and said: "Yes!" But my brain said: "I have no idea with what task I could possibly serve her!" I don't

know much about finance, and making arrangements for a furlough is also not really my cup of tea. This past furlough God showed me and other HFC members through Carina that I may serve Him "just" (it looks so simple) by praying and being there for her.



We are **Rinus and Ingelien Visser**. In November 2010 we visited Carina in Mali, because we wanted to see her work, have a taste of the culture she lives in and meet the people she writes about. Our trip left a huge impression! During our visit we got to know each other a lot better, and when Carina asked us to be part of her HFC we whole heartedly accepted! We share the mission to announce the Kingdom of God in a world that is suffering from a heavy burden that people can not take away

themselves. People will be lost for eternity when they do not accept the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus; they need God in their lives.

We are members of Carina's home congregation, de Rots in Middelharnis.

**Rogier and Desiree van Spunter** will share their story in the next newsletter.

**Greetings from Bamako from your Carina**

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**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 OR GIVE ONLINE: <http://www.cmalliance.org/give/approved-specials> Mail field ----- Rahab Ministries**