

Carina Saarloos in Mali



Newsletter March 2009

Dear congregation, friends and prayer supporters,

While writing this news- and prayer letter to you the month of March has begun.

The first two months of this year have been very difficult for me due to a couple of emotional events I went through. Those of you who receive my monthly prayer points or read these on my website, know about these problems. One of the things of my concern is the illness of my night guard Luka.

As you know, Luka has AIDS and due to this, he is paralyzed on the left side of his body. While his health did not improve these past few months, his family decided to take him and his household from Bamako and bring them all to the village where Luka was born. In Mali, doing a thing like this is a sign that people expect you to pass away soon. It is best to spend the last weeks of months of one's life with their "own". From a cultural perspective I understand this completely, but there is a battle going on in my heart. Leaving Bamako also means living without an AIDS-program with medication and revalidation for his paralysis. Luka and his family (see picture) left at the beginning of February. The only thing I can do is to pray for him every day. Our heavenly Father knows best what he needs!



RAHAB MINISTRIES

As leadership team of Rahab Ministries we have started the process of turning Rahab Ministries into a foundation (association). This means having official articles of association, directives, a bank account and so on. Receiving the status of a foundation is more or less obligatory if you want to be recognized as an organization by the state and are looking there for support. This process means going through a lot of paperwork, but it also means having a lot of meetings which makes the leadership team grow.

Concerning the team, there is an other thing I would like to share with you, something that occupies my mind for the last couple of months.

Most of you will remember Aya Doukoure. Aya (2nd of left on the picture) has been my African colleague, friend and tower of strength for many years.

She returned to Bamako in May 2008, after having spent eight months with her family and friends in Ivory Coast. During her absence the work in Rahab Ministries has changed a lot. But since she returned something has changed in "our relationship" as well.

Aya needs to get used to the fact that the leadership team exists of five women now, instead of only herself and me. There is a new conflict or problem between Aya and one of the women or team members every month. I try to keep my trust and faith in Aya and meanwhile keep digging to find out what is really the matter with her. The other team members are really tough in saying that Aya is no reborn Christian, and that the only reasons for her to be friend are my skin color and money.



I REFUSE to accept that! The Lord has blessed our friendship and has saved Aya more than once from agony. Also, he has brought her back into my life!

The consequence of Aya's behaviour in the team is that I was forced to suspend her. At this time Aya is only visiting the Rahab Centre on Friday mornings when we have Bible study with the women and pray together. The other days she is working as a household help for a couple of American colleagues and also receives spiritual support from them!

- **Pray for Aya that the Lord frees and heals her!**
- **Pray for forgiveness and unconditioned love for the rest of my team members: Angela, Marthe, Lea and Dorcas (not on the picture).**
- **Pray for Marthe (3rd of left) who will be in charge during my leave of absence.**

I am very grateful for the lock, stock and barrel of Rahab Ministries right now. There are ten women in the rehabilitation- and trainings program. They are all very eager to learn, not only regarding the things concerning the work, but also on a spiritual level. Below you see a few pictures!



**My greatest passion:
teaching from the Bible**



**New technique;
stamping candle
wax on fabric .**



They let me try too!



**Koro with her
embroidered
handkerchief.**

There is much more to tell regarding the work amongst the prisoners, Centre Philemon and things like that. In the presentations that I will be giving during my leave of absence, I hope to tell you all about it. I hope to meet a lot of you in person in the months to come.

Do not hesitate to drop by on the Kaaidreef or to give me a call!

Warm regards from your Carina

- **Pray that I will be able to complete my duties here in Mali before taking my leave.**
- **Pray for a good physical and emotional health for myself!**

LEAVE /FURLOUGH

As mentioned before, Carina will be in the Netherlands from the 21st of March until the 19th of June 2009. As of the 28th of March she will be staying at "her little house" at the Kaaidreef, as she did on her last leave. Hopefully in 2010 I will come to the US to do a tour there !

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During the week of the months April and May, Carina is still available for presentations. Carina loves to tell you about her work, for example in your congregation, your study group, women's gathering, youth night and so on. The presentations are worth while, since Carina speaks with a lot of passion about her work in Mali. Please contact Carina ! Best regards from the Home committee !

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For C&MA Mali

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