



Newsletter December 2011

Dear colleagues, friends and supporters,

At the time of writing December has already started. A special month in my opinion, with splendid opportunities to talk about our faith in Jesus Christ. In Bamako the children that live in my street ask me daily if it will be Christmas soon and when I will drop by with presents. It is not easy to tell them to be patient just a little longer.

My November was very blessed and full. It started with a very good and blessed conference as CMA team in Sikasso. It was good to be together like this for a week and to be fed by an inspired speaker. After this conference I had many guests. Friend and colleague Saskia stayed with me because of her last month of Bambara studies, and we celebrated her birthday in a living room filled with Dutch people. Nice opportunity to organize a Dutch evening of praise songs! Then we had Gerrit and Jeroen of *Broadcasting Time for Churches* here with us in Mali. Together with colleagues Anco and Ewien they ate quite a few hot meals at my place. Very cosy to have this much good company in the house, but at the same time energy consuming. Below some impressions of the past November month.



RAHAB MINISTRIES



More and more the Rahab Centre seems to turn into a crisis centre for short term stay. Regularly young girls from the street ask us for help. At the beginning of October, 18 year old Assetou visited us. We met her at the bus station many times, and this time she came to us. Assetou told us that these past couple of weeks she spent every day in the hospital in Bamako. Her two year old son had malaria and had to be hospitalized. Unfortunately the little boy did not survive and everything had caused Assetou great trauma. She had not taken care of herself properly for quite some time, so she was pretty underfed with enormous swollen feet. Assetou lived

with us for over two weeks and regained her physical strength. But her aggressive attitude and complete lack of respect for our mother superior Ba Febe made us decide to show her the door before things in the centre really got out of hand.

This same month we also helped Batoma and her newborn son Adama. Batoma was recovering from a caesarean section and stayed with us for two weeks. Then she choose to leave.



I met her on the street on the evening of December 5th. She and six week old Adama were doing fine, but it was so sad to see her amongst the other prostitutes again.

Fati, who used to live in the centre together with Oumou, is now participating in the training program. She currently lives with a “cousin” and his family, and I hope and pray that everything will be fine. This past month everyone in the centre was busy making Christmas items. Below you see some pictures of the things the women made for a Christmas market:



*Pray with me for

Assetou, Batomata and many other ex-Rahab women who heard the truth but decided to go back to the streets (again).

* Pray for Fati, Jeneba, Mariatou and the others who participate at the training program.

* Pray for wisdom and unity in the leadership team: Ba Febe, Maman Marthe, Léa, Dorcas and myself.

* Pray for safe journeys during the various Christmas activities in December.

* Pray that we will find a medical person (doctor, nurse) who is willing to attend to the physical needs of the women in the Rahab Centre.

PRISONWORK

The month of November had two major highlights concerning the prison work. The first one was the opening of the Philemon centre for a couple of days, due to the visit of the team of *Broadcasting time for Churches*. It was good and impressive to see all the activity in the centre. Let's pray that the Wild Geese will bring in the necessary funds so we can start working on the well next year. The team longs for the opening of the centre again, but that can only be done when the well is operating.

The second highlight was on the 29th of November, when 11 men were baptised in Kati prison. A festive day and a great testimony to many prisoners and guards. A few moments of the highlights captured on camera:



- Please pray for the flight of the Wild Geese on the first day of Christmas.
- Pray that these 11 men will stand strong in their early faith. Please pray for Oumar, he was the 12th to be baptized. Unfortunately he suffered from malaria and could not be baptized on the 29th together with the other men.

A BIT OF EVERYTHING



The first week of December I accompanied a group of people from Gideon Ministries to three different prisons in Bamako to hand out bibles. A huge blessing, giving the Word of God to more than five hundred prisoners. Let's hope and pray that the bibles will be read and that hearts will be touched by its message.



Steadily the church in Zankasso takes form. A busy time for pastor Kaleb, who is very grateful for the financial help from the Netherlands. I hope to see the new church in January 2012.

Momentarily 6 year old Soumaila from Tierakassédougou lives with pastor Kaleb and his wife Jemima. He is doing very well. Samuel and Dorcas, a couple living in Koutiala, would like to adopt him. They are waiting for a bigger house so they will have enough space to offer Soumaila.



- Pray that this adoption will soon have a happy end, that Gods Will will be done.
- Pray that the construction of the church in Zankasso will be brought to an end successfully. That many people will find their way to this church.

From December 15 until the 23rd we as teams hope to celebrate Christmas with the prisoners and prostitutes.

Below you will find a short planning of the various celebrations:

Friday December 16th: 9.30 women's prison and at 11.30 young boys prison and 2nd performance of the *Messiah* at 19.00!

Monday December 19th: 10.00 male prison in Koulikoro with meal and at 19.30 Christmas celebration with the prostitutes at the bus station.

Tuesday December 20th: 10.00 male prison in Kati with meal and at 19.30 Christmas celebration with the prostitutes at Halles de Bamako.

Wednesday December 21st: 10.00 male prison MCA in Bamako.

Thursday December 22nd: 11.00 male prison in Ouelessédougou and at 19.00 singing of Christmas carols with singles in my neighbourhood Badalabougou.

Friday December 23rd: 10.00 celebration in our own Rahab Centre with meal.

Saturday December 24th: giving away presents in my street.

Sunday December 25th: 8.30 Malian Christmas service and in the afternoon lunch with other single missionaries.

At the end of the year 2011 I would like to thank you all for your support and sympathy with me and my work here in Mali. Without your financial and moral support it would be impossible to do! From Mali I wish you all a

Merry and Blessed Christmas and a prosperous and healthy 2012.

Ps 23: 1 "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want."

Warm greetings, Carina

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