



Carina Saarloos in Mali

Newsletter June 2010

Dear congregation, friends and prayer supporters,

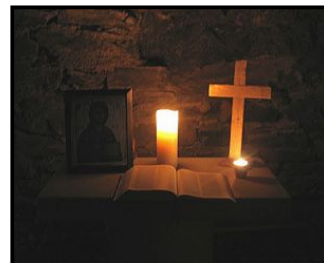
*“But when he asks, he must **believe and not doubt**, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.” James 1:6-8*

God does not always answer our prayers the way we would like Him to. This could have to do with our wishes not being according to His will. Other times we do pray, but our wishes are not granted because our prayers are wrong. And then there are the times we use God merely as a spare tyre, to be used only if we need Him. It is also likely that we pray but we are not heard because we do not believe God on His word. Do you know the story of the woman who asked God to move a mountain? The mountain was in front of her house and she asked God to drop it into the ocean. When she opened her eyes the mountain had not moved and she said to herself; I knew it would still be there! This is not the way to pray! In our prayers we need to remind God of the promises He made to us in the Bible. We need to believe that He will grant us what we ask for, as long as it is according to His will. To pray while believing and not doubting, that is my daily lesson!

THE NETHERLANDS/FRANCE

No, I am not reporting a soccer game between the two above mentioned countries! In May I was able to visit both countries. I really wanted to visit my mother Jo to encourage her after she fell and broke her hip last January. I was very happy to see her, and at the time I was in the Netherlands she was allowed to return to her own house. **Great timing Lord!** In France I participated in a group travel existing of walks and retreats. The week was organized by Amarant travels and retreat centre ‘de Spil’. What an incredible week we had! The scenery was amazing, the travel party great. We had several special celebrations in the chapel and many heart to heart conversations with the others. **Thank you Lord!**

Below are some pictures of my weeks abroad.



RAHAB CENTRE

I was very pleased that during my absence all activities in our centre went on as usual. Those of you who follow my weblog (<http://carinainmali.blogspot.com>) know that I am doubting the effectiveness and performance of our Rahab centre for quite a while now. As time passes by it becomes clear that Anatole and Angela Seke, the couple from Congo that lives in our centre, do not function as required. Their cultural customs differ from the habits of the Malinese people and already several girls have left the centre because they could not get along with Anatole, Angela and their children. A very difficult situation. How to bring a message like this without upsetting them? If it was up to me I would like to have one or two Malinese widows running the centre. But I am not sure if the Lord feels that way too. **Will you please pray with me for wisdom in this matter?**

14 Year old **Jelika** left our centre in the first week of June to return to her village. We managed to get in contact with her family and they really wanted Jelika to come home so she could help out in the fields during the rain season. In the five months that Jelika was with us we really have seen her change. She is now a friendly girl with a lot of self confidence. We were informed that she arrived in her village safe and sound. **Please pray for Jelika, that she will practice what she has learned in the centre!**

Two women from our training program, **Barakisa and Shata**, made the choice to follow the Lord Jesus. Not only great news, but also a big encouragement for us as a team to continue what we are doing. **Please pray with us that these girls will grow in their faith and that their families will not hinder their christianity!**

Tuesday and Thursday afternoons the centre is open to anybody who feels like coming in to have a chat. After a few slow months it is great to see a lot of young girls coming through the door. Many of them ask for prayer, but others just want to tell their story. **Please pray with me that we will guide these girls as best as we can and maybe even offer them a place in our centre!**



Pictures of Jelika!

Barakisa making a doll!

Shata (right) gets help of Fatimata

PRISON WORK AND PHILEMON CENTRE

In Kati prison two cells have been altered in the months of April and May. In the evening the men are divided into two groups now. With the altered cells every group has a bit more space to breath and sleep. **A prayer answered!**

A lot of great things are happening in the female prison as well. Every Friday afternoon our team visits the women and I noticed that, despite the heat, every Friday the classroom is quite packed. But competition is around the corner, as an Imam visited the women a couple of times to talk to them about the Islam. It is fascinating to see that the women really have to make a choice between the two groups, as they can not have it both ways. There is a small group of young women that is truly touched by the gospel. Every Friday afternoon they stay behind for personal prayer and a bit of love and attention. **Please pray with me that these girls will continue their search for Jesus and will ultimately make a decision for their lives.**

We keep having problems in our Philemon centre, the shelter for ex convicts. To name just a few; the past months we tried to find water in our well again. One and all, using dynamite and drills we managed to deepen the well two meters, unfortunately without the hoped result. The roof of the boys' bedrooms is leaking. Since the rain season is coming soon we need to have the roof fixed before the first drops will fall. Samuel Coulibaly, a widower, is the mentor / leader of Philemon centre. Last month he got married again and now he has told us that he wants to leave the centre as soon as possible.

The team deliberated and prayed and in the end we decided to move the three boys that live in the centre immediately. They got a place in Remar centre in Bamako and will stay there for at least two months. In the meantime Philemon centre will be closed. The roof will be fixed and we will take another look at the water problem. Also we will need to find a new leader. We really need your prayers for this centre. **Please pray with us that the Lord will encourage us and will show all of us HIS plans for this centre. Once again, no water means no life in Mali!**



Last but not least I would like to share a couple of personal points of prayer and thanks with you. Since my arrival in Mali in November 2002 I have been in contact with missionary Janet Souster. Janet is from England and Works for Wicliffe here in Bamako. We became friends and prayer pals and we even spent a couple of holidays together in Senegal. While she was in England for a six month furlough the doctors discovered that Janet has breast cancer. She has had surgery and the malign tumor has been removed. Thank the Lord for that. Janet will still need to have chemotherapy and she will stay in England at least until the summer of 2011. **Will you please pray with that Janet will fully recover?**



I am also very grateful for colleague and friend Saskia de Poel. Since October 2008 she works as a doctor in Koutiala, a five hour drive from Bamako. The Lord really has given us to each other, not only as an encouragement for both of us but also to sharpen one and other.

Please pray for Saskia as she will have a tough summer ahead of her. She will be the only white doctor in Koutiala since all of her colleagues will be away on leave or vacation. Please pray that we will get to know each other better and that we will have the opportunity to meet

each other once in a while!

I would like to thank you all once more for your prayers for myself, the work here in Mali and for your financial support. The work in the different prisons and amongst the prostitutes does cost a lot of money. The only way we can continue giving practical help, like free medication for the prisoners, is when enough money will come into my Saarloos work special account.

Will you also pray with me for a good rain season here in Mali!

With dearest regards, your Carina!

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