



# Carina Saarloos in Mali

Newsletter July 2006



"By her faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient."

Heb 11:31

## God's great heart for everyone !

Recently I was again fascinated by the story of Rahab such as we can find in Joshua 2. It has been very clearly formulated in verse 2 that this lady was a prostitute. Rahab had understood very well that the two spies were Christians, men who worshipped the Almighty God, the God who had made a path through the Red Sea. For this reason she hid the men in belief on the roof of her house and sent the soldiers of the king away using a little lie. Rahab gives a firm declaration of belief in verse 11b "The Lord your God is a God in heaven above and on the earth below". In belief she asks the men to save her and her family of death.

The scarlet cord that will hang from her window is the treaty between her and the God of these two men. And God does not break its treaty. In Joshua 6:17 en 23 we read how Rahab and her whole family are saved of death, because Rahab had given the spies shelter.

God does not let go of Rahab, we do not know exactly how her life fares but we do know that we find her name in the birthline register of Jesus Christ. Rahab marries Salom and their son is Boaz. Exactly the Boaz who marries Ruth the Moabitical. They have a son Obed who in his turn is the grandfather of king David.

What a story, our God whose heart is so great for those who are lost. He chooses a woman who is a prostitute and changes her into the great-great-grandmother of a child of a king.

No need to think twice about a name for our open centre; "Centrum Rahab"! (see further on in the newsletter)

## Trip to America !

I would like to inform you briefly of my experiences in America.

The first week was the international conference of Christians who work worldwide among prostitutes. It was a fantastic week. The first 2 days we were with about 70 people from 36 different countries

and the next 4 days more than a hundred people from America came this way and in this way 37 countries were represented there. It was a joy to listen to each other's stories. Especially the regional meetings with people who all work in an African country were very instructive and effective for me. In Kenia, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso and Mali we have to deal with poverty. There was a lot we recognized and I could learn from those who are already a bit further on the road.



*The Dutch on the conference in the USA*

One of the things that I learned is the fact that prostitutes

consider their work as business. We have to come up with a good alternative and not only give them loving attention. We have to really give them the chance to learn a profession!

After the conference the hard work really started. I do not want to withhold from you that we have a great God who looks after us and knows what we need. You know that I play the guitar, I have a left-handed guitar which is difficult to replace but I had really decided not to take along my guitar to the USA. Already in the first church the Lord provided me with a left-handed guitar which I was allowed to use the whole trip. **People can provide a right-handed guitar but only the Lord can provide a left-handed one.** I traveled in three weeks time from church to church in the states of Wisconsin and Illinois and could tell about the work of the Lord among the prisoners and prostitutes in Mali. I spoke in schools, on youth evenings, women's mornings, prayer meetings, Sunday services and so on. More than 60 times in 3 weeks so it was certainly no holiday but a rich experience.

➤ *Thanks for the greatly blessed and instructive time in the USA.*

- *Thanks for the new contacts and praying partners whom I have found in the USA..*
- *Pray that what I have learned on the conference can also be put into practice here in Mali.*

### Rahab Centrum "Centre Rahab"

In my previous newsletter I wrote to you concerning the opening of a launderette for prostitutes. For one reason or the other we met some opposition here in Mali in renting the building. So I postponed this whole project till after my trip to the USA. In America my eyes opened and I understood why the Holy Spirit had resisted us. These women such as Rahab are worth more than to offer them employment and keep them occupied.

After having intensely prayed and deep consultation we decided to start an open centre. Within 3 days we had the right space in the right place in Bamako And since 19 June the doors are open.

Every day women have come in for a chat, for prayers, for a Bible story, to watch a Christian film and so on.

It's really a contact place for prostitutes, widowed women, girls that run a risk and so on. A good method also to separate the sheep from the goats. I trust that those who really want to give up prostitution will come!

We also have contacts in a project which is coming along well together with the women prison.

They have a training center in Bamako that has all the things necessary to train the girls in making soap and painting clothes.

If we can place our women there for a few months then they'll have work there and they'll learn the tricks of the trade.

I am enthusiastic about these new developments in the work among prostitutes.

- *Thanks for "Centre Rahab" and pray that many women will find the way to this open centre.*
- *Pray that the partnership with the women prison will work and that we can teach the ladies a profession.*
- *Pray that many will find the Lord Jesus.*

### Latest developments

#### Aya

Aya is back from her trip to Guinee and Ivory Coast. Her old mother badly wanted to go back to Ivory Coast and Aya and her son Soufiana have brought her back to her village. The signs of the

war were still visible but Aya's mother is happy. Aya has decided that Soufiana will remain with his granny in Ivory Coast for the time being.

#### Precious

Precious has been working in her shop for second-hand clothes since early June. She is very grateful for a good health and looks a lot better with a little more weight.

- *Thanks that Aya is back in Mali and pray for her mother and son.*
- *Thanks that Precious is in her shop again. Pray for constant good health for her.*



*Precious and Marjan on picture*

#### Visit of girlfriend Marjan Dijkstra

As I write this newsletter my friend Marjan Dijkstra is here on a visit for 2 weeks. Marjan works for the Salvation Army in the Czech Republic. We have known each other for 12 years and are grateful for the support which we can give to each other.

- *Pray for a good and blessed two weeks with Marjan. Also pray for a good health for Marjan.*

**Dear prayer friends, I pray you all a very good summer holiday. And thanks for your support and sympathy for me. Greetings from Mali where the rain season has started.**

**Kind regards from Carina Saarloos**

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