

Carina Saarloos in Mali



NEWSLETTER JULY 2007

Dear family, friends and supporters,

I have entered a new period on the missionary field. Therefore, time for a new lay out for my newsletter! It will also be an attempt to put in more pictures and less lines. I think it has become very nice and sort of fresh.

Review of my home-assignment in the Netherlands!

My leave of three months has passed and I have to say that I have had an incredible time off. When leaving Mali, I was very tired, physically as well as emotionally. I was looking forward to get away from Mali and leave the whole lot behind.



My home committee had really taken good care of business; I had my own car and a house for myself. At the picture you can see the house where I lived 10 out of my 12 weeks. It is so nice to have your own space when you are on leave; you can take your time to relax and rest.

The weather was great when I was in the Netherlands. All of April it was dry and nice and calm, it truly felt like a blink of the Lord for me. I enjoyed springtime, all the fields with flowering tulips, going for a nice walk or cycle.

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It was very nice to spend time with mother Jo. Mom would love to do everything by herself, but unfortunately this has become much more difficult after her hip operation last year. Luckily she got a scooter for the elderly, which means she is a little bit more independent now.

During my leave, I have tried to participate in all the different activities of my home congregation, the CAMA Christian congregation Middelharnis. I really enjoyed it; it is so fascinating to see the Lord working in the hearts of my brothers and sisters. It was also a good chance to fuel up again in my own religious community.

There has been a new change in my home committee. After being in this committee for more than 12 years, the Struik family decided to part and hand over their tasks to a new couple. The Vogel family has filled the vacancy. In my upcoming newsletter they will introduce themselves.

The picture on the right shows me together with my dear friend Marjan Dijkstra. I am very grateful that things go so much better with her after she had a psychosis last year. During my leave we met several times and looking back we can say that those times were very blessed. *Will you pray with me for a full recovery of Marjan?*



Back in Mali in the prisons and Rahab ministries!

Despite the great home assignment it is good to be back in Mali. This is where I belong; this is where the Lord has given me a job to do. At this point I have already been on different floors again, not only with the women but also in the prisons.



The women of Rahab ministries have done a great job. A lot of them truly grew in their faith and have become much more independent. Unfortunately things did not go so well with Veronique, who you can see at the picture on the left. Things went so bad that my colleagues were forced to make her leave. Presently, I have visited and spoken to Veronique a couple of times and I would like to guide her individually.

Will you pray with me that Veronique will get on the straight path again!



The picture on the right shows Kate, the woman with the glasses. She is one of the women of Rahab ministries. Kate is from Nigeria and received word this week that her mother had suddenly died. We helped Kate in getting a ticket for the bus and after that she left for Nigeria. Two of Kate's children lived with her mother in Nigeria. I encouraged Kate to stay in Nigeria and to start looking after her 2 teenagers herself.

Will you pray with me that Kate will find a decent job in Nigeria so she will be able to support herself and her 2 children?

Pray that she will hold on to the things she learned in Mali and does not relapse in prostitution.

At the end of July, a number of women will be ready to support themselves. This means that in our training centre there will be places opening up for other women.

Pray for wisdom for myself and Aya in guiding the women who are ready for society, and in making a good selection for the new group.



Towards circumstances the prisoners are doing well, although Kati prison is quite full again. In every cell there are more than 50 men. Each cell is built to house only 15!



Pray that these boys will persevere!

Spiritually, a lot of great things are happening in the different prisons. In Kati prison tuition of baptism is given to a group of 12 men.

Every Friday the female prisons are filled with approximately 35 women who ask for prayer profoundly.

Pray that these prisoners will repent and ask forgiveness for their sins!

I would like to wish you all a great vacation! Take a break and enjoy your family and friends. In the knowledge that luckily God does not go on vacation, I greet you all dearly! Carina



**Carina Saarloos
Mission Protestante CMA
B.P. 2233 Bamako – Mali
Tel: (00223) 222-02-64
mobile (00223- 674-8878
E-mail: csaarloos@cama.nl
website :www.carinainmali.nl
with English link available !
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**