



marco
justine
naomi
noah

April 2012

Sibongile I before...

...and after!



Chattin' to God

Usually it's easy to see our current prayer requests by reading our newsletter. In this edition we will, however, list a few specific prayer requests, so in case you are planning to have a chat with God any time soon you can mention some of these in your conversation. He will surely have a thing or two to say about them.

- Wisdom: Especially for Marco to make the right decisions and have the necessary sensitivity toward the staff at Sibongile.
- Protection: The more amazing breakthroughs are happening, the more seems to be going wrong at the same time. Please pray for protection for us and the Sibongile Team.
- Preparations for Mozambique: we still need to read 5 books in 5 weeks, buy lots of supplies, and prepare Sibongile for our absence. Lots to do!
- Our time in Mozambique: that we will be changed, stay clear of sickness, and that the kids will adjust easily to their new surroundings and routine.



Naomi is helping to apply for our Mozambican visas

Preschool Children

For almost four weeks the Sibongile Day Care has been going strong in its brand new facility. Seven of our residential care children and five kids from the community are rocking the show from the morning until the late afternoon. Next door, Marco, Bukelwa and other administrative staff are working all day until heads and computers start steaming. In the adjacent kitchen fresh miracles are prepared daily and I am playing with the idea to stop cooking at home altogether and ordering at Sibongile instead – it's all so yummy! The day care staff Rebecca and Andiswa, as well as some of the volunteers are working hard to prepare weekly curriculum suitable for the vast range of disabilities that the day care children have. What we dreamed up for Sibongile I has become reality – and it's a blessing for everyone.

Last year, "**A Heart For Children**", a huge funding organisation in Germany, declined our application to buy Sibongile IV, the house we are currently renting. But this year we got a positive answer! They are not only going to fund the purchase price of our third

The angel said to the women, Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Matthew 28: 5-6

The outdoor area at Sibongile I will look similar to this:



Mozambique, South Africa's neighboring nation in the East.



A mere 30 hrs after applying: we have our visas!



Sibongile Day Care

More picture from the grande re-opening can be found [here](#).

residential care home but also a new playground and security fencing with an automated gate for Sibongile I and the full equipment for Sibongile IV, inside and out! The Deed of Sale was signed this week and all sub-contractors are informed and waiting to get their hands dirty at Sibongile. And because that seemed to be too little excitement, we have FINALLY received the long awaited funding of the South African Department of Social Development! To say we are stunned is an understatement. All these news show so clearly that the goals we had set in faith in our

Action Plan in April/ May 2009 were actually God's vision for Sibongile. If these had not been his thoughts and his working we would now – three years later – not be at this point.

The Countdown

In about five more weeks we are off to Mozambique. We will first fly from Cape Town to Johannesburg on the 26th of May and spend the night there in order to board our plane to Pemba, in the North of Mozambique, early the next morning. The Harvest Mission School begins on the 1st of June, leaving us a few days to get settled

into our new home. "Home" will mean sharing a 3x4m room in the "Village of Joy", that only contains a double bed, a bunk bed and mosquito nets. We will share our house with 6 to 8 other students and have the luxury of two bathrooms and a kitchenette in each house. There is running (but only cold) water and usually also electricity, although the current is unstable. The city of Pemba is close by and that is where we will begin our hunt for things such as plates and cutlery, an internet modem stick for our laptop, creative storage for our things (since there are no cupboards) and some kind

"The Deed of Sale [for Sib. IV] was signed this week..."

of system to keep our kids from falling out of the bunk beds at night. Pemba is also where we can buy fruit and vegetables, eggs and bread to supplement the otherwise basic African cuisine (rice, beans and sometimes a few vegetables) that we will be eating at the base.

Lectures happen close to the residential huts in the huge, open hall that fits all 300+ students and

school staff. Guest speakers will be teaching from Mondays to Thursdays, 8am – 1pm, including worship and prayer times. With the exception of a few hours of childcare here and there our children will join us during lectures – just as the other 40 children of attending families (ages range from 8 months to 17 years). Fridays are ministry days and everyone gets to work either in one of the base's projects (clinic, children's homes,

sewing workshop, soup kitchen) or do a mini-outreach to the poorest of poor, like those living on the garbage dump in Pemba. Evenings are for deepening conversations with guest speakers and spending time with your family and housemates. Or for collapsing into bed.

We will add some more tidbits in our next newsletter!

Many blessings, the 4 Spalkes