

April 2013



Germany '13

07/19
 Arrival in Hamburg
 07/20 - 08/18
 Cloppenburg and surrounds
 07/28
 Preaching Oase Molbergen
 08/11
 Preaching/ Present. Oldenburg
 08/18
 Preaching/ Present. Bremen
 08/18 - 08/20
 Siegerland
 08/21
 Brühl & Hüttenberg
 08/22
 Bickenbach
 08/23
 Hurlach
 08/24
 Günzburg
 08/25
 Bad Schönborn & Crailsheim
 08/25 - 08/28
 Eberdingen
 08/29
 Flein & Filderstadt
 08/30 - 09/1
 Ascona, Switzerland
 09/1
 Frauenfeld, Switzerland
 09/2 - 09/3
 Regensburg
 09/4
 Großenhain
 09/5 - 09/6
 Berlin
 09/7 - 09/8
 Calberlah
 09/9 - 09/10
 Hamburg
 09/11 - 09/18
 Cloppenburg & Departure!

Waiting, waiting...

The hormones are playing up, well and 10 months are pretty long after all... in around three weeks we are hoping to welcome our honorable heir to this family! Justine is getting more and more restless, scrubbing and sorting, washing and re-organising our whole house. The kids are so eager to meet their brother too, especially because many of their little friends had siblings arrive in the last few weeks. But nonetheless we have to wait patiently - and enjoy the last few nights of blissful sleeping through the night. At the same time we are relentlessly finishing up our planning for Germany, in total wishful thinking that Little Master Spalke will be easy going and relatively uncomplicated in his ways. We are fully aware that it could all play out very differently so any prayer in that direction would be greatly appreciated.

By the way, our church is setting up a nice little home for us in their new church building in Molbergen so that we can have our own place to stay this year during those weeks that we are not on the road with our camper. We are super excited about this blessing and are looking forward to see how life as a "normal" German family is like - since we've never had that opportunity before!

*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away...
 Ecclesiastes 3: 1-6*

First Church Team

Around Easter we welcomed our first short term church team, who spent two weeks in Cape Town, mainly working with Sibongile. It was such a different experience for us since we have only hosted missions teams in the past (for example Discipleship Training School Teams, Bible Students, etc.). To keep the balance between enough relevant work/ ministry and down-time/ sightseeing (since they spent their short annual leave to fly to the other side of the world, after all) was not always easy for us as their coordinators. But the debriefing on the last night showed that everyone seemed to be going home satisfied with what they were able to give and the impressions they were able to gather here. Amongst other things, this team from Oldenburg (who has had a huge heart for Sibongile for a while already) helped building a house for one of our mamas and her family, created beautiful murals for the kids' bedrooms and some of the walls outside, made new mobiles to go above the beds, and spent lots of time in the homes and the day care centre helping with

www.spalkemission.com
marco@spalke.com
justine@spalke.com



Construction talk. Or coffee break?



A young team member spending time with the kids from the community



Noah and some Sibongile Kids on a marathon we recently did together (walking, rather than running...)

the day to day routine. Both of us realized how challenged we were to lead this team on a spiritual level but somehow it did not always "flow" easily. It was a confirmation for us to use this year to invest into this area of our lives and learn more about spiritual leadership. Whatever our future may bring, we want to do everything under the headship of Christ especially when it's about leading a team or motivating your own coworkers to grow on a spiritual level.

Registered!

Finally, after countless years of applying, then being rejected, applying, then being rejected, applying, then being rejected... Sibongile Day & Night Care Centre is now officially a registered and licensed

Health Care Facility with the South African Department of Health! We had been rejected so often because there has always been little things that our facilities or operations were lacking in regards to regulations (a missing ramp or too many steps, the renovation of our day care was not finished, etc.). The department has also been hesitant to register new NGOs because it greatly increases the chances for these organizations to successfully apply for funding from the same department. We have missed the financing time bracket for this year but are very hopeful to receive this substantial funding as of next year. It would be another strong pillar of financial stability for us. This important step also ensures more consistent quality in our centre and increases our credibility with potential donors and partners.

"...We want to do everything under the headship of Christ..."

Back in Jail

Since Marco has a bit more breathing space in his calendar these days he followed an invitation from a fellow German missionary, who is doing prison ministry, to join him behind those bars. We have both visited Pollsmore before, the prison that became famous through Nelson Mandela's political arrest and that is only about 15min away from our house. Marco's hope was to find a few old inmates, most of whom we had met on the streets. And alas, as soon as he started walking through the courtyard he could hear the first familiar voices shouting "Brrru Marrco!". Many of our old friends were still (or again!) in prison. He had a great time with the spiritual workers who are keeping up an awesome,

ongoing ministry to these guys. They meet with about 12 inmates to talk, share and pray with one another. The guys were very open with their lives and many want nothing else but to change their ways to get out of this dungeon with its overpopulated cells. But that path is a rocky one, made that much more difficult by the strong pull of substance addiction and the tight bonds to their gangs. Nonetheless, they are finding hope in the saving grace and power of Jesus who gives them supernatural strength to keep going. As long as it's still possible for Marco, he will continue to join the ministry team on a Monday morning, in order to spend time with those precious people that display such a different kind of brokenness and hopelessness.

Blessings, the Spalkes