



marco
justine
naomi
noah

January 2012

The new
Wakkerstroom bus



Family News

Two days ago we said goodbye to Marco's parents who finally spent over two weeks with us in Cape Town. It's been a big dream of theirs because they struggled to grasp how our life and work looks like in South Africa. After many visits to Sibongile, touristy sight-seeing, time spent with the grandchildren, and celebrating both their birthdays in 30°C they returned to cold Germany full of impressions and a much better understanding of this nation

Naomi started to go to preschool two weeks ago! She is really excited about it and has fully embraced her teachers, Auntie Michelle and Auntie Lizzy, and the other children in her class. Five of her little friends that she either knows from our YWAM base or her previous playgroup have also started attending the same preschool, so there are a few familiar faces. And Noah fully enjoys having his mommy all to himself in the mornings ☺



Our big girl
(with a bug on her finger)

A new year

Although the first two weeks of the new year have been fairly quiet at Sibongile, there is never really a break for anyone because the kids need their Sibongile family and care every day and every night of the year.

In November we reported about yet another hopeful application to the Department of Health. Unfortunately, we have now been told that we have to turn in a totally new application for the new year, as the other one has not been processed in 2011. It's so frustrating! One of our volunteers joked that we could theoretically just cross out the "2011" and write "2012" over it, as none of our information has changed. But no, this Department always finds a reason to make it just one step harder for us to get their funding. We really need prayer for a long awaited break through!

But God still shows us his faithfulness and encourages us with some other great developments at Sibongile, as you could read in the Sibongile Newsletter. The Opening Ceremony of Sibongile I has been postponed to the 17th of February. We are thankful that over 30 000 Euros came in for the renovations and only 3 000 Euros are missing to provide high-quality, wheelchair resistant flooring.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

Sibongile I is almost done!



Albert and Peter visited the Wakkerstroom School



Marco's parents with Noah at the Cape of Good Hope



Wakkerstroom Society

The German NGO for the kids in Wakkerstroom enables High School Diplomas through sponsorships

There have been some exciting developments in Wakkerstroom over the past few months, that have been a long time in the making. After a few delays the new school bus was delivered to the farmschool in November (see picture on the first page). The donations that were needed to buy the 22 seater were collected by a Dutch couple who had volunteered at Wakkerstroom. So now the kids don't have to walk the long distance to school anymore twice a day. A big Thank You to Henk and Linda for their efforts!

Friends of Wakkerstroom

Our November Newsletter mentioned the upcoming visit of Albert and Peter, the founders of the "Friends of Wakkerstroom" NGO/Society (top middle). Their time in Wakkerstroom was eye opening and effective and so they registered the Wakkerstroom NGO right after their return to Germany. With the intensive work of the NGO, its capable steering committee and Marco as the local mediator and advisor they were able to set up some good communication networks between

the Wakkerstroom School, the High Schools and the German NGO. The goal is to enable gifted grade 9 graduates to visit a good quality High School and the adjacent Boarding House. This initiative is such a good example for people that have a heart for South Africa and its lack of educational opportunities and shows that it's possible to make a difference without actually living here! We fully support Friends of Wakkerstroom and encourage you to consider a sponsorship (you're welcome to contact us for more information).

"...it's possible to make a difference without actually living here!"

Nomasango on the go again

After her first big trip with time difference (to Australia in September) it is now time for Nomasango to face the German cold. On the 20th of February her and Marco are leaving to Frankfurt. Their trip will take them to Siegen, Stuttgart, Munich, Cologne as well as Cloppenburg and Oldenburg, before Nomasango flies back to Cape

Town on the 5th of March. Marco will stay on for another week in order to spend some time with our church, friends and family in Cloppenburg.

The point of this trip is to connect Sibongile's many supporters, sponsor-a-child parents and partnering churches to Nomasango, the heart of the organisation. We hope to encourage Marco's slow move away from Sibongile and Nomasango also wants to

understand and see the faces behind the many donations, heartfelt initiatives and NGOs who have helped Sibongile survive in the last years.

We have not planned a family trip to Germany for this year for various reasons. Hopefully, we can share more about it in our next newsletter.

God's blessings, the 4 Spalkes