

January 2014

## Almost there...

Christmas came and went, so did New Year's and every day life has us back. On the 1st of January we welcomed the team from Youth With A Mission in Cologne and soon after Marco went to the Transkei in the Eastern Cape with them for 12 days (more on that later). During that time we made a spontaneous decision to vacate our apartment much earlier to be able to hand it over to missionary friends of ours, who were soon to be without a place to stay and unexpectedly had their twin girls arrive at only 26 weeks gestation. Long story short, our entire house is stored up in our garage while we have moved just one flight of stairs up from our old place, into a fully furnished holiday apartment until we can move into our new house sometime at the end of February. We have sort of done half of the entire move already and can chill for about a month before unpacking again!

Keep me as the apple  
of your eye;  
hide me in the shadow  
of your wings.  
Psalm 17 :8



First Day of Grade R with her "Schultüte", not so South African. But barefoot, which is so very South African.



The team presenting the "Traffick Proof" program to schoolkids in Lavender Hill (a township not far from us) which shows the dangers of human trafficking and gives information on how to protect yourself.

## Our Kids

Naomi is in Kindergarten/ Grade R this year and because her previous preschool doesn't offer a Grade R level (and due to many other reasons) we have decided to homeschool her this year. The first week went great, including a German - but not so South African - school cone or "Schultüte". Noah is still in preschool, making new friends and enjoying his time there. His English has improved considerably and he can actually have a conversation now. Leon is still a laid back baby, but he sure has some bees in that bonnet. He just turned 8 months old, leopard crawls in lightning speed throughout the apartment mopping the floor with his tummy, pulls himself up to standing on any low furniture - and then chews it with his three teeth. This full-time parenting job never gets boring!

## Awareness and Healing

Marco took 30 people into the Transkei. Next to raising awareness on the

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A handful of women were several weeks overdue, the babies just didn't want to come. The team prayed and three started contractions right away while one of the lady's water broke there and then. Here is one of the babies shortly after the long awaited birth!



Taking a shower in the Transkei is also team work.

dangers of human trafficking, house visits and church services the team has also visited the local prison and hospital. They experienced several times how sick people got healed who had not been able to walk or move for a long time. One 95 year old grandma even started dancing with Marco after her legs got healed! A young man was so emaciated that he could barely speak. After some hesitation he decided to give his life to Jesus. The next day his bed was empty - he had passed away just hours after his decision and found his full healing that way.

In prison criminals accepted Jesus and reconciled with their victims. During the awareness sessions it was frightening to see how many children and youth know of friends or family



## Hope Southern Africa

We have mentioned previously that we have founded a non-profit organisation on our last trip to Germany. Now it's official: "HOSA - Hope Southern Africa" is registered! Some good friends from different churches in Northern Germany started this initiative along side us. The vision is to support Christian development and missionary work in Southern Africa through administrative and financial channels. We will slowly separate our donor administration from Youth With A Mission on the German side. YWAM Hurlach has blessed us immensely over the last years but the scope of our projects on this side has widened

members who suddenly "disappeared". It was reassuring to see how open they were to learn the warning signals and how to protect themselves from this form of slavery.

The spiritual atmosphere is no joke on outreaches like these. You constantly get in touch with people who have purposefully dedicated their lives to witchcraft and who do not want to let go of it. This made the beginning of the team's 2 months outreach a very intense one. In the next two weeks they will be working in Overcome and other townships just a few kilometers away from our home. A YWAM colleague of ours has started a church there and the team is assisting him in his ministry with full force.

so much that it is time to begin our own administration of finances, even though our German work arrangement with YWAM will remain for a while. Our goal is to achieve even greater transparency in donations, lower admin costs and most importantly increase the opportunities for smaller projects to develop that are just starting to sprout. We are so blessed to have very capable people on board who have a heart for missions and want to see God's Kingdom spread in Southern Africa! We will communicate more information about account details soon, but for now everything remains the same, so no worries!

*Blessings, The Spalkes*