



marco
justine
naomi
noah

July 2012

The huge pots in the base kitchen, where we get our food every day. There is always enough!



Sibongile

While we are sweating in the Mozambican sun and filling up our spiritual tanks everything is up and running at Sibongile. Some of our longterm volunteers have said good-bye and four new volunteers have arrived to continue the good work. We are being informed surprisingly well of Sibongile's progress which is great for keeping in the loop. Two months ago Marco met an architect in the sauna (of all places!) who offered to draw up plans for yet another Sibongile Centre (4 houses and a clinic) which is to be build around Sibongile 1, the Day Care. The municipality is busy transferring half of the land around the Day Care to Sibongile. We get to see the plans when we come back around the 19th of August. We are excited to see how our Lord wants to provide for it and also that Sibongile will be able to give more children a safe home and better medical care to all disabled people in the community.

Mosambique News

Finally some more news on us and our time here in Mozambique! Looking back at the last five weeks we know that we are at the right place at the right time even those this time has been marked with sickness, broken nights because of our dear screaming son and living in close proximity to one another and many other people. It might sound weird, but these have been the best five weeks we have experienced in a long, long time. In the past these hurdles would have completely blown us over. Just the fact that we can pray for Noah in unity at 3am in the morning and not fight at all during the day even though we are sleep deprived is a miracle in itself.

As a family we see more how God really means it when he wants to be the centre of our lives, how he wants us to pursue his working hand in our everyday mundane things. We see it in our children: Naomi is known amongst the school for her hitch-hike miracles. Because we don't have a car we often stand by the roadside and wait for a car to give us a ride. Naomi sticks out her thumb and prays "Jesus, thank you for giving us a nice taxi (that's how she calls all the cars here) today..." So far we always had a car stop, most of them even with air-conditioning, and some drivers have even taken detours just to get us to our destination. One time a man gave us a ride and stopped by his house to get a handful of lollipops for Naomi and Noah before he took a long detour to take us where we needed to go. The two have also joined us more and more in praying for the sick. It's an amazing new view of life!



Noah turned 2 and celebrated it here in Mozambique

It is good to grasp the one and not let go of the other.
The man who fears God will avoid all extremes. Ecclesiastes 7: 18



Keeping the kids busy with (quiet) movies during class.



Our room is on the far left, two more families live on the right side of the house and we all share one kitchen.



Noah's new friend Salimo who also joined him for his birthday party.

What is normal?

Well, what is normal? In the Western world it's normal to go to the doctor when you're sick. He examines you, gives you medicine and you're better after a few days. Blind people get training in a school for the blind, get a guide dog and learn to live with their new normal. When someone is growing deaf he gets a hearing aid to try to rescue the last few sounds around him. Here in Mozambique we are experiencing a new kind of normal. When people are deaf or blind they don't have the same opportunities as we do in the West. The only thing that is left for them is their faith in Jesus Christ and that he will heal them. Every week groups

of students go out to the bush to bring this very opportunity to people in the remote villages. They show the Jesus Film in Makua (the local dialect) and afterwards they ask if anyone is sick and wants prayer. Every week many, many blind, deaf and crippled people are completely healed. When they are asked if they want to follow this very Jesus they often say: "Of course! How could I not give my life to the God who does this great thing for me!" The faith of the people is so strong right from the start because they have seen God move miraculously and they had a tangible experience of God's love. God shows up because they cannot rely on anything or anyone else

but him alone. Marco already went on this two day outreach and got to see this with his own eyes. He and the team prayed for a lot of people and almost always they could witness complete healing. We really want to bring this to Sibongile and experience more and more healing for our children.

Before the outreach Marco got the impression to pray for a lady sitting in front of her hut holding a tea cup that had a flower on it. The picture in his mind was so clear – but to own a cup is a luxury in those villages, never mind so specific with flowers on it. The two day



“Our ‘normal’ has been completely blown up...”

bush outreach started and it looked like the picture was just a product of his imagination. but then, on the second day, Marco came past a hut... and a lady with a flower tea cup sitting in front of it (see picture on the right). She had lost her husband just recently and also had a crippled leg. Obviously, she was heavily burdened and needed encouragement. Even though she

did not get healed when she got prayed for, the simple fact that God had showed someone from overseas who she was and that she needed prayer was such an evidence for her that God knew and loved her. She received so much joy and her countenance changed hatte.

Our ‘normal’ has been completely blown up. We have been given the

challenge of looking to God in the most ordinary of situations. At the same time, we face the challenge of expecting our Lord to move in extraordinary ways as well. He doesn't seem to make much of a distinction between the two, as long as we focus on Him alone.

Your 4 Spalkes