

June 2013



Our son and his obscure passport picture

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!

Joy & Sadness

The last month was marked by many joyful events. First of all, our friends Cedrick and Judith (leaders of the NGO Zikomo in Zambia) welcome their baby boy (see photo second page). Because Marco has played a significant role in Cedrick's life in the last five years, Cedrick and his wife wanted to honor Marco and decided to name their son after him! His name is Marco Beance Mwelwa Kamba. This is a common practice in Zambian culture and Marco feels very humbled by this huge act of honor. Our son Leon is also doing very well. He is growing, eating and sleeping well, burps and does other stinky business. We are so happy to finally be a complete family. So far he has been a very relaxed little fellow, who will hopefully also be an uncomplicated travelling companion on our big tour (which will start in five weeks - gasp!).

The sad news are that Asisipho (see picture on the second page), one of our Sibongile children passed away two weeks ago and is now with Jesus. Even though we know she finally has no pain and can move, speak and dance with her Savior now, it does leave those left behind in sorrow, especially the mamas. She will be sorely missed but leaves us the reminder that the investment in each child is not for nothing.

*It is for freedom that
 Christ has set us free.
 Stand firm, then, and
 do not let yourselves be
 burdened again by a
 yoke of slavery.
 Galater 5:1*

Friends of Wakkerstroom

The Friends of Wakkerstroom NGO in Germany develops in leaps and bounds. The beginnings were difficult and the challenges that keep coming up with different parties involved are not entirely overcome yet. Nonetheless we can see that it's all going into the right direction. Because the High School drop out rate amongst the sponsored students was quite high in the last two years, we have had to develop new strategies to lower those rates and ensure greater academic success amongst the former Wakkerstroom students. The level of the Terms of Admission for High School have been raised and better academic assessment will be implemented before the kids even move on to the local High Schools. We are currently in dialogue with some organisations in the area, who are specialized in this area and are willing to help us with their services. One of the possibilities is to enable those students who are not able to fulfill the requirements for High School to be practically trained for a specific trade (e.g. carpentry or electrical work).

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Little Marco with his mommy Judith and daddy Cedrick



Asisipho - a bright star at Sibongile



Just for kicks - our kids fulfilling the German cliché of Lederhosen and Dirndl :)

Johan Fourie, a friend of ours whom we met in Mozambique, has a wine farm in the area and it has been on his heart for a while to start a ministry like that on his farm. We have just assisted him with a finance proposal that someone from the Friends of Wakkerstroom will forward to a German organisation. We will see how the outcome will be. Maybe carpenters, plumbers and electricians will soon leave his farm with the ability to work and support their families in a tangible way.

Registered!

In our last newsletter we shared that Sibongile is now registered with the South African Department of Health. Shortly after that we received the good news that our organisation "Zikomo Child Development" has been officially

registered as an NGO in Zambia. It is a big miracle because these official processes usually take months if not a whole year. A friend of ours, who is also on the Zikomo Board of Management, contributed a big part to this quick process. His connections reach as far as the president's office, who has invited us for a visit for next year too! The first trip back to Zambia is planned for December and four more visits (one every quarter) are on the radar for 2014. The goal is to support our friend Cedrick and his wife Judith when they begin their ground work in Zambia next year and to give Zikomo good structures and work flow.

Zikomo on the other hand wants to focus more on establishing a solid network with other organisations in the area that share a similar vision and support them in their work. The trip in December will lay the foundation for that.

"How do I have to pray? How should my quiet time look like?"

Freedom

In the last weeks I (Marco) have asked myself how life in the Kingdom of God looks like every day. Especially for someone like me who likes to run life on high speed and always has the feeling that my time in prayer and meditation on the Word of God comes too short. One day I jumped into the car full of energy and ready to tackle my to-do list. While driving I was chatting to God about stuff and then heard his voice whisper: Go have breakfast with me! I had quite 'religiously' scheduled structured prayer and even fasting for that week, so this type of spending time with God really did not fit the bill. But I decided to follow this inner voice, stopped at a café and ordered breakfast. It was my time with my Papa God, just him and me. And it

was absolutely awesome! It is through Christ's death that we have been made free and he wants us to live in this freedom and experience him in it. Many Christians however get caught up with rules and regulations, for example:

How do I have to pray? How should my quiet time look like? What do I have to do to please God?

Justine has been challenging me a lot in this area lately, to re-think and fully live out that freedom that Christ enabled me through his sacrifice.

I hope these words encourage you to live your freedom in Christ, to live with Christ and enjoy him to the fullest... maybe even over a cup of coffee!

God's blessings,
the Spalkes