



## Germany '13

The "rough" schedule

07/19  
 Arrival in Hamburg  
 08/20 - 08/18  
 Cloppenburg and surrounds  
 08/18 - 08/20  
 Siegerland  
 08/21  
 Brühl & Hüttenberg  
 08/22  
 Bickenbach  
 08/23  
 Hurlach  
 08/24  
 Günzburg  
 08/25  
 Bad Schönborn (Church?)  
 08/25 - 08/28  
 Eberdingen  
 08/29  
 Flein & Filderstadt  
 08/30 - 09/1  
 Ascona, Switzerland  
 09/1  
 Friedrichshafen (Bodensee)  
 09/2 - 09/3  
 Regensburg  
 09/4  
 Großenhain  
 09/5 - 09/6  
 Berlin  
 09/7 - 09/8  
 Calberlah (Church?)  
 09/9 - 09/10  
 Hasloh & Hamburg  
 09/11 - 09/18  
 Cloppenburg & Departure!

## Annual Planning

Usually, we cannot even predict what will happen in our lives the next day, but at the beginning of the year we know exactly where we will be at the end of it :) Our tickets to Germany are booked! We will be in our homeland from the 19th of August to the 18th of September. Three weeks will be spent travelling around the country. This time, some family friends made their camper (or caravan, mobile home, whatever you fancy) available to us for free, which is such a blessing! On our last visit in 2011 we had to cancel a major part of our big trip due to stress related issues. This year we will travel the country as modern nomads and can stop in countless places (3400km in total), always sleep in the same beds and do not have to pack, unpack and repack a single suitcase - ever! That makes a huge difference with two kids and a newborn and especially Justine is excited to meet friends and supporters again that she has not seen in more than three years. We have the feeling it is time to focus on personal relationships, so hardly any presentations are planned. Instead we have made room for lots of conversations and fellowship with people. We are excited to see how God wants us to be a blessing to every single person we will meet!

*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*

## Volunteer Break at Sibongile

It's time to say goodbye at Sibongile. Paulina, Christiane and Kathrin have gone back home already and in the next weeks the Sibongile Family will also have to bid farewell to Julia, Andrea, Lisa and finally Diana in June. Each of these young women has been such an enrichment to Sibongile and it is great to see that they were not only a blessing to the people here, but each of them also gained invaluable things on many levels during their time of service. Becky, our physiotherapist for the past year, luckily decided to stay with us for another 12 months. She will get some support by Sibongile and so we count her as a staff member rather than volunteer. With those last goodbyes, Sibongile's many years of volunteer blessings are coming to an end for now. The Board of Management has decided to substitute the jobs done by volunteers with employees (therapies, fundraising, public relations and sponsor care). Thanks to the relentless hard work of these unpaid helpers Sibongile has come to a place where it can carry the responsibility of full time staff financially

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and structurally. This will help to give the children more consistent opportunities for healthy attachments and less changes in their therapists. Our other organisational pillars will also benefit in stability if staff who stay for more than just six months work continually on one area. Besides that it has always been our vision to work sustainably, locally and create employment. What could be better than offering qualified South Africans from the community a great job?

No volunteers also means that slowly but surely Marco's many responsibilities are being delegated to others. We have been writing about this change for a while now, so it's nothing new, but it has certainly become much more tangible in the last weeks. Because of our other involvements in South Africa and Zambia Marco still has enough to do. But the day is not as packed as it used to be and the speed at which he

works has considerably decreased in comparison to what we know. Many would say "Wonderful, finally you can enjoy some normality!". Well, if your preferred comfort zone is not called "normality" and usually involves juggling numerous things at once then a "quiet" season like this can become pretty uncomfortable. And although we are cringing and sometimes the itching in our fingers seems unbearable we feel at peace because we know we are exactly where God wants us to be right now. It's time for some alignment: The Kingdom of God is first of all about the King - and not the things you can accomplish for Him! Our relationship to him is far more important to God than any successful project. It's a season of focussing on this relationship right now while God is happily crafting a new vision for us behind the scenes - and will tell us about it whenever we are ready for it... :)

*"The Kingdom of God is first of all about the King..."*

## Zikomo Zambia

Zikomo in Zambia, Sibongile's first international "daughter", is still in its beginning stages as the registration of the non-government organisation should be completed soon. Since writing about Zikomo for the first time in our newsletter two international people have shown great interest in helping the project to start up and run smoothly as volunteers in Zambia. We have also been able to get a few other organisations and charities to have a look at the vision of helping children in need and there is quite some potential for future financial funding from their side.

Beyond that, the trip to Zambia brought about a new contact with Bethesda, a ministry for disabled children that the well known missions

organisation Operation Mobilisation (OM) is already running in Zambia. Sibongile was able to help Bethesda considerably by providing them with templates of all our business plans, fundraising concept and all sorts of documentation for daily schedules, care giving and communication with doctors and government departments. They can simply adjust the files to their needs and individual operations and will be able to work more smoothly and efficiently. We also connected them to [Wings of Support](#), a charitable initiative by the Dutch airline KLM and one of Sibongile's sponsors, so they are in the process of applying for funding with them. How awesome when you can help to give others wings - literally!

*Blessings. the Spalkes*



One of our many Goodbye Parties at Sibongile



Lisa and Andrea are hands on with the kids at Sibongile III



Diana (r.) has also contributed greatly to the leadership workshops in the last weeks