



marco
justine
naomi
noah

May 2012

Prayer Requests

Thank you for your prayers! We asked you to pray for wisdom and protection in our last newsletter and we could really feel the impact of that. The past weeks have been marked with positive changes and clear signs of independence for Sibongile. More to that on the next page.

If you would like to continue praying for us, here are some points:

- **Luggage:** The Mozambican Airline is notorious for losing luggage. Please pray for exceptional protection for our many bags!
- **Health:** Please pray especially against Malaria and bacterial infections. We will take enough antibiotics and malaria treatment with us but it would be so annoying to spend this special time sick in bed.
- **Input:** We are expecting a lot from this season of learning and really hope for great input on all levels.



We had a surprise party for Marco at Sibongile. Complete with 48 edible Marco-Cupcakes!



Departure

Saturday is D-Day! We are starting our journey to Pemba, Mozambique in the early morning, arriving there on Sunday afternoon. We are extremely excited and the kids are over the moon too (well, more so Naomi, Noah doesn't really get it yet). For weeks we have been preparing this trip in so many ways and have started packing bags a few days ago. It's amazing how much we can fit into these jumbos! Each one of us adults will go on an 2-3 day long outreach to the real bush (the kids will stay at the base with the other parent). That means that one of these bigger bags (see picture on 2nd page) contains a one-man-tent, sleeping bag & mat, and bottles upon bottles of mosquito repellent. Even the mattress for Noah's travel cot found a place! Because diapers are so expensive in Pemba (a pack of 18 for around 25 US\$!) we stuffed the other one with 425 disposables – and a few extras. This is our most interesting trip when it comes to logistics and we are very grateful for many years of packing experience. By the way, we had asked our German contacts if anyone had some Malarone (Malaria prophylaxis) left over – and people just sent us packets upon packets of pills so we got all of this expensive medication covered too! Halleluja & Thank You!

[...] being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.
Philippians 1: 6

Our luggage.
Hand luggage
still to go...



Sibongile 4 with the
renovated garage



...and a playground!



Limited Internet in Mozambique

We kindly ask for your understanding that due to time & internet limitations we will not be able to answer personal emails. However, we will still update you with our monthly newsletter in June & July.

“Sibongile is not my baby anymore”, says Marco with one laughing and one crying eye. This does not mean that it’s not our project anymore. But it’s just obvious that the phase of pioneering new ground is over and the organisation has become mature and self-reliant. The team in the office has undergone huge changes. Bukelwa proved to be the perfect fit for the position of day manager. She now oversees the smooth running of the houses and is the unifying point for all the

mamas. Bulelani, our new administrative staff person (and finally another rooster in the hen-coop!) joined the team a few weeks ago and is an invaluable addition through his communication, bookkeeping and professionalism. Rebecca and Andiswa changed the day care to a real preschool and the other mamas in houses 2 to 4 are keeping up the great work. The first **parent workshop** happened last weekend at Sibongile! Many of the mothers came to hear more about Sibongile, learn about their

children’s disabilities and possibilities for therapy and support. Most importantly they were able to share the challenges they face having a disabled child. Attending the workshop was a huge step as many had written their kids off already. **Medically** there has been a lot of changes for the children and Sibongile’s health operations. Glynn is a South African nurse who works at Sibongile every Monday. She makes sure the children are healthy and can treat them directly

“The first parent workshop happened last weekend...”

or refer them to a doctor and also assist the mamas in their care. Sibongile had its first meeting with the responsible doctors at the Children’s Hospital in Cape Town, a huge deal. Now, many doctors appointments are grouped into one day, hours of waiting is a past problem for Sibongile children and the care between hospital and our centre is coordinated. The Department of Health is now

officially using Sibongile’s care model as an example of dealing with care centres for the disabled in the entire Western Cape Province, all this thanks to Johan, our physiotherapist! The finances from **Ein Herz für Kinder** from Germany have been put to good use already. We can proudly call Sibongile 4 our own now and it has been renovated to make it more suitable for our children. The outside of the day

care is almost finished and just as beautiful as the preschool itself. And a **local trust** gave Sibongile their almost brand new 12-seater van...

The “baby” is certainly not one any longer. We can safely leave for three months and then come back and be involved again - refreshed and encouraged.

Many blessings, The Spalke Four