

A Year of Changes

After arriving in South Africa we only had two weeks to settle back in and then went straight into attending the Leadership Course on our base. That's why we allowed ourselves to skip the October Newsletter during that turbulent time. And this one is almost the last newsletter of the year! Looking back over the last eleven months we realize how this has been a year of many **changes** and transitions. In January, we finally got some normality into our days (and nights!) after Noah's surgery, God provided a loan to buy a house, we joined a new church in our neighbourhood, Marco began delegating more and more of his work at Sibongile, Leon joined our growing family, we ventured into new territory on our Germany trip and experienced God in new levels, we founded an NGO in Germany (we will say more about that in the new year), we bought a house, the leadership course gave us new vision and tools to accomplish it, a married couple and a young man we have been friends with for a while asked us to mentor them, and - last but not least - Marco and Cedrick will travel to Zambia in December. Sheeew, what a year! We are excited and so humbled over the things God has done and curious to see what he has for us in the coming year!

*to be made new in the
attitude of your minds;
and to put on the new
self, created to be like
God in true righteousness
and holiness.
Ephesians 4:23-24*

Leadership Course

The literal title of this 6-week course was "Leading By The Spirit". And that's exactly what it was about: to be led by God and his heart in all areas of our lives, be it work, ministry, family or elsewhere. We learned so incredibly much but here are just two tiny revelations we want to share with you: **God was already present before we got there!** When we start praying for someone, begin a missionary endeavor in a new city or start a new project, then God has had a vision, a heart and a plan long before we even knew about it. We can either do our own thing until we face plant and then come to God for help... Or we can start out by asking "Lord, what do you want to do here? How do you see this person? What do you want to do in this situation?" When we ask he is faithful and speaks and shows us the way. Another important truth that struck us was this: **the cross is always a place of exchange**. Sort of like a bureau de change. When we come to the cross and lay down things like fear, bitterness, addiction or anything else holding us down, then we do not have to walk away empty handed, naked and exposed. God offers us his perfect love, forgiveness, fulfillment (or whatever it is he hands us in return) that we can pick up and make our own. This is what "renewing" or "putting on the new



Oma is here to visit for a few weeks!



Leon during the leadership course, his favorite place to nap was in Eric's arms.

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Cedrick and Marco with the other participants at the Organisational Development Seminar

self" means (Ephesians 4, 22-24). That doesn't just happen once, when we accept Jesus' gift of salvation. This is a continual process in which we keep coming to the cross, laying down and picking up. This is growth, this is real and lasting change.

With this new awareness and practical tools for ministry we feel very well equipped to face the new responsibilities God has brought into our lives (like the mentoring relationships and the start of Zikomo in Zambia).

In line with that, we have had a **team** contact us for the first time in many many years. YWAM Cologne, Germany will send a DTS team of 26 people our way in January 2014 and we will have the honor of coordinating their outreach until March. First, we will get short but intense training by Justice ACTS, an anti human trafficking

organisation that was founded out of our base. We will then take what we have learned out to the Transkei (further inland, bush) and raise awareness to empower and protect the highly targeted children, youth and their families. This is also a great opportunity to get to know one of the South African cultures (Xhosa) in its purest form. After that we will go back to Cape Town where the team will join some of our YWAM colleagues and the various projects they run in different communities in the city. We also want to organise some extra teaching and ministry times for the team to get input along the way. Two weeks will be spent in Robertson close to where we used to work with the Wakkerstroom school. This time we want to support our friend Johan and his vision for the poverty stricken farm workers.

Looks like some promising first months in 2014!

"The cross is always a place of exchange. Sort of like a bureau de change"

Zikomo

As I mentioned earlier Marco and Cedrick will travel to Zambia from the 3rd to the 16th of December in order to further the development of Zikomo. Cedrick attended a 5-day seminar on our base with Marco last week that dealt with everything there is to know about Organisational Development. It was an important tool for him as he will soon step into his fulltime position as the director of Zikomo. During this trip the two of them want to visit some of the NGOs they have made contact with before and scout out the land for more information on needs and resources. It is also time to meet the Board of Governance of Zikomo face to face again. In Africa everything is built on relationships and therefore it is

important to meet in person regularly to ensure the relationship is strengthened and everyone is catching the vision. In January Cedrick and Judith will do the Discipleship Training Course (DTS) on our base in Muizenberg. Three months of intense input and two months of international outreach (maybe even to Zambia) will definitely give them the time to grow in their relationship with God, work and live in a multi-cultural setting and give them some more tools for the task ahead. After the DTS they will pack their bags and head off to Zambia to start fulltime with Zikomo Child Development!

*God's Blessings,
the 3 Spalkes*



In class



Leon is already 6 months old!