

September 2013



Grandpa Willi got to know his
5th great-grandchild



Justine preached a
message on "freedom"



Just after returning
Naomi turned 5

Back Home

We arrived back in South Africa on the **19th of September** and immediately felt all at home again, as if we have never been gone. It was the most obvious with the children - even though they were very tired from the flight they became totally relaxed and content as soon as we walked in the door and they were back in their familiar surroundings. Naomi and Noah were both born in Cape Town and besides immediate family there is not much that holds them in their parents' "homeland". It made us realize how deep the roots go that we have planted here, as much as we do enjoy our trips back to Germany.

When we returned God gave us an opportunity to let these roots grow even deeper. Many of you have heard our **crazy story** about us trying so desperately to find a new apartment at the beginning of the year, but being so shocked by the rental prices and finally giving up hope of finding anything suitable for our growing family. Shortly after, we received a very reasonable private loan (a crazy story in itself) which would put our monthly living costs way under the current rental prices (which get raised by 10% every year) - and the search for a house began. However, all property agents told us it would be impossible to find something suitable within our budget. So we laid the whole issue down, trusting that God would take care of a house in due time, just like he took care of this loan in such a miraculous way...

Commit your way
to the Lord;
trust in him, and
he will act.
Psalm 37: 5

So one day after our arrival I was tired and overwhelmed from unpacking and was whining about how, after 9 months of searching, I really wanted to move into our own place (yes, I know that's 1st world problem whining). Marco went on the internet straight away and called an agent about a house he was advertising. The agent thought this particular house would not be the right one for us at all (the area was not very safe) but he said he had another one he would like to show us. That same day we went to see the house at 5:30pm, walked in and knew right away "This is it!". The price was a bit high so the next morning we put in a lower verbal offer. At 5pm, not even 24hrs after we the first viewing, the owners accepted our offer! Now all papers are signed and we can move in at the end of February. We are totally overwhelmed by how great this house fits the way we do life and ministry, the timing and that it ended up being such a bargain. Only God can orchestrate something like this and it pays off to be patient and trust him. **Thank you to everyone who prayed with us for a house!**

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Our home for 3 weeks -
the Camper



Leon was such a trooper
riding thousands of kilometers
next to Daddy



Noah and Naomi also enjoyed
their onboard entertainment
called mom

Germany

Our time in Germany was like a short term outreach into the deepest bush of Africa - except with better roads and shorter church services! We personally met with over 60 contacts, covered appr. 7000 km in those two months, lived in a tiny space (the camper), were bitten by countless mosquitos, experienced the weirdest sicknesses, endured intensely hot days, saw crazy provision, were privileged to serve in different churches with preaching, presentations and testimonies, could listen and encourage individuals and pray for them... We fell into bed dead tired pretty much every night but felt so richly blessed and satisfied seeing **God working** all around us. Before we left in July we had some specific impressions for our time in Germany and it was amazing to witness each one

of them come to pass in exact detail, which gave our own faith a much needed boost.

We also got to know a handful of people that we had never met before - our circle of friends just became bigger! It was so wonderful to serve in our own nation and simply pass on the blessings from God's great buffet which he had already appointed for each person...

The camper turned out to be the **idea of the century**. We were so comfortable in it and it greatly simplified the logistics of the trip. We were equally blessed to be staying in our church building where our home church had prepared a beautiful apartment for us. We were able to get to know our church family so well and they have been such a blessing to us.

"It was so wonderful to serve
in our own nation..."

From one thing into the next

We had about a week to catch our breath and settle back in. Tomorrow (30th of September) we will start the **Leading By The Spirit Course** on our base, which we wrote about a few months ago. The two big kids are going back to their preschool in the mornings and Leon will join us during lectures. The course covers spiritual leadership and how you lead others in areas of ministry. A center part is prayer and intercession and spiritual processes like inner healing etc. In the last years we have been dealing quite a bit with these kinds of topics or were faced with situations where we would have needed to be more knowledgeable in these areas. So we expect to get equipped and be able to use these new tools in our ministry.

We also hope to hear God's voice more clearly about what's in store for us after Sibongile. While being gone Sibongile's independence only increased and Zikomo will be our satellite project which we will guide and take care of from afar, because of Cedrick's full-time commitment to it. We already have something on our heart, which we think we should focus on, but it's important to us to get the Lord's confirmation on it first.

God's blessings,
the Spalkes