

Muli buti (hoe gaan dit)?

Ons is veilig terug in Kanjanji na 'n lekker breek in SA. Ek moet sê ek bly eerder in 'n dorpie in Zambië as in 'n voorstad van Johannesburg (waar ons vir my niggie-hulle gekuier het). Almal was so bly om ons terug te verwelkom - mens sou sweer hulle het gedink ons gaan nooit weer terugkom nie! Dit was omtrent 'n groter tranedal as die ganery!

Sedert ons teruggekom het, is dit baie warm en wag ons naartigtiglik vir reën. As dit nou begin reën, reën dit blykbaar sonder ophou tot einde Februarie. Ons het natuurlik, nou dat die somer begin het, baie onwelkome besoekers. Dis nou behalwe die malaria muskiete! Hier kan julle sien hoe lyk 'n klein pofaddertjie by Pastoor Siphensa. Lourie het nou die aand toe hy die pomp gaan afsit het, in 'n swart mamba vasgeloop! Nodeloos om te sê trap ek nie oor ons huisie se drumpel na donker nie!

Met Spokie gaan dit voor die wind – sy het baie groot geword en lyk nou soos 'n langbeen foxterrier met te groot ore. Buddy en Pinky is reusagtig en Buddy is slaggereed. So hier kom weer 'n tranedal! A.g.v. die terugslag met die dak (waar die wind omtrent helfte van die dak afgeruk het), moes ons heroorweeg en sal ons eerder nou van die varke ontslae raak as om 'n nuwe varkhok te bou.

Met die hoenders gaan dit ook maar so-so. Twee het aan hoedergriep beswyk en ons het toe besluit om hulle maar almal 'n dosis of wat antibiotika in te gee. Die gevolg was dat ons vir 10 dae nie die eiers kon eet nie en dus het ons ongeveer 120 eiers surplus waarvan ons ontslae moes raak! Die lekkerste ding waaraan ek kon dink, wat nie normaalweg in hierdie hongertoestande sal gebeur nie, is 'n eier-resies! Hier sien julle watse vermaak dit verskaf het vir die wesies. Op die agtergrond is mama Kalaluka. Ons moes toe die wedloop aan die gang hou en almal laat hardloop tot



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Muli buti (how are you)?

We are safely back at Kanjanji, after a nice break in SA. I must admit, I'll rather live in a quiet village in Zambia than in a busy, noisy suburb of Johannesburg (where we visited my cousin). Everybody was so happy to welcome us back - it was as if they did not expect to see us again! This was almost more tragic than leaving, but it was tears of happiness!

Well, since we've come back it has been very dry. We are desperately waiting for rain now. If the rain starts, it will apparently not stop until the end of February. Since the beginning of summer, we now have a few new unwelcome visitors. On the photo you can see Pastor Siphensa with a small pufadder we killed. Last week Lourie almost stepped on a black mamba when going to switch off the pump early one the evening. Needless to say, I do not step outside my shack after dark!

"Spokie", our little dog is fine now –she has gained a lot of weight! She looks like a long-legged fox terrier, with big ears. Buddy and Pinky have also grown quite a bit and Buddy is ready for the abattoir. This will be another sad day for me, but they are eating far more than they are worth as well as the fact that we have to prioritise now, and we should rather start to re-build the roof than a new pig pen.

Because we lost a couple of chickens due to some unknown illness, we had to treat the whole bunch with antibiotics and therefore the eggs were not good for human consumption for 10 days. This was a real tragedy because we had to get rid of about 120 eggs! Well, the best thing I could think about in this poverty stricken place (where you could imagine such thing would never happen) was an egg-and-spoon race for the children. In the photo you can see the fun we had with this! In the background is mama Kalaluka. We had to keep the race going until there was only one

die laaste een 'n heel eier gehad het. Dit was groot pret, want ek moes later skelm aan hulle stamp om van die eiers ontslae te raak! Die middelste outjie op die foto, Pego, het dit agtergekom en sommer agter sy eier aan geduik! Nee, hy het toe nie op die einde gewen nie, die outjie regs van hom, Odrin (een van die tweeling-wesies), het gewen. Kyk vir Cynthia regs op die foto, sy het ook deelgeneem!

Hier het Kersfees vroeg gekom! Iemand het uit Engeland 'n reuse boks met allerhande mooi goed gestuur vir Kersfees asook verf en skryfgoed vir die kinders. Dit het ons skooltjie baie gehelp. Ek sal volgende keer meer vertel van die skooltjie. Ons het nog nie 'n tafel nie, maar het darem al 6 plastiekstoeltjies hoewel ons nog op die bed sit en skryf.

Baie dankie vir almal se donasies, gebede en eposse. Dit val op vrugbare grond, kan ek julle belowe. Dankie ook aan almal wat mieliemeel geborg het om die wesies by die skooltjie te begin voed. Ek sal eersdaags fotos daarvan op die webtuiste laat sit. Onthou asseblief dat hierdie 'n langtermynprojek is. Daar is geen maklike oplossing nie, maar ons kan intussen 'n verskil maak in die lewens van baie wesies wat sou omkom van hongerte en VIGS vir wie daar voorheen GEEN hoop was nie. Besoek asseblief die webtuiste vir nuwe fotos en inligting. Onthou ons kan deur die webtuiste gekontak word, maar ook per epos.

Baie groete uit 'n warm, droë Afrika!



whole egg left. Now this was fun, because I had to "accidentally" bump into the kids to get rid of the eggs, and Pego, right in the middle of the photo, realised my plot and dove after his egg! No, he did not win in the end – Odrin, the boy just on Pego's right (one of the twin orphans) won the race. Look at Cynthia on the far right - she also participated!

Christmas has come early! Someone from England sent a huge box with lots of goodies for Christmas including paint and stationery for our new pre-school. You should have seen the children's faces. Our school has 10 plastic chairs, but no table yet. We are using one of the bunk beds as a table – more about our school in the next letter.

Thank you very much for all the donations, prayers and e-mails. This, I promise you, is fertile soil. Thank you also for all the people who donated a bag of maize meal for us to start the feeding program at school for vulnerable children and aids orphans. We will have some photos on the website soon. Please remember this is a long-term project. There is no easy solution, but in the meantime we could make a difference in the lives of a thousand children as well as giving hope to vulnerable- and AIDS-orphaned children which had no hope before. Please visit our website for new photos and information. Remember you can contact us through the website, or by e-mail.

Greetings to all of you from a very dry and warm Africa!

**Gisela & Lourie**

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