

Mwabuka buti! (Hello hoe gaan dit met jou!)

'n Lekker warm hello hier uit midde Afrika! Dit is veronderstel om winter te wees, maar net om julle jaloers te maak, ons loop met kortbroeke en plakkies rond! So 25-28°C. Ek sukkel maar 'n bietjie, ek moet nog gewoon raak aan Vista! Dis nou behalwe die feit dat ek altyd in gedagte moet hou dat wanneer die enjin van die voertuig loop, ek iets moet laai. Hier is die voertuig wat Francois Venter vir ons leen tot Desember. Haar naam is Lenie. Sy ry baie lekker maar is vreeslik dors! 5km/liter, so ons beperk maar die ritte tot Choma (13km).

Ons leefwyse is so basies – dit lyk meer na uitkamp as iets anders en in dieselfde asem dink ek aan al die duisende mense hier om my wat dink ek leef in weelde! My eerste groot versoek was vir 'n spoeltoilet. Lourie het vir my 'n kampstoeltoilet gekoop en alhoewel dit BAIE beter is as hurk, sien ek net nie kans vir die long-drop nie! Op die foto is ek vroegoggend besig om die septiese tenk te help bou. Dit bly maar nogsteeds 'n missie omdat ons nie lopende water het nie. Maar ek gee nie om om 100km te ry vir water nie, net solank ek 'n toilet kan hê. Hahaha. Op die volgende foto is die wesies besig met die ossewa, nadat hulle water kom aflewer het.

Ek het gister vir my 'n stuk materiaal gaan koop (my skoonma sal baie trots wees op my!), want nadat Pastoor Sephensa die hoofman van ons ingelig het, moet ons nou eie aan hul kultuur die hoofman gaan ontmoet. Hy is Hoofman Singani. Daar is sewe sulke hoofmanne, en elkeen is aangestel oor sy "provinsie". Dit is, lyk my, amper so erg soos die adelikes in Engeland. Ek moet 'n rok aantrek (so ek het gou vir my 'n romp gestik met die kragopwekker)! En ons moet 'n geskenk saamneem. As jy die guns van die hoofman het, dan kan die regering nie eens iets aan jou doen nie! Daar is 'n foto van die plaaslike hoofman en ouer mans saam met Lourie.



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Mwabuka buti! (Hello how are you!)

A warm hello from mid Africa! It is supposed to be winter here, but just to make you jealous; we are in shorts and flip flops! It is around 25-28°C. I am struggling a little, still need to get used to Vista. Another thing is that I always need to think about when the engine of our vehicle is running. I always need to charge something when it is on. The vehicle belongs to Francois Venter, and it is on loan until December. Her name is Lenie. She is a pleasure to drive, but is very thirsty! 5km/liter, so we limit our journeys to Choma (13km).

Our lifestyle is very basic – it's more like camping than anything else. But at the same time I think of the thousands of people around me that think I live in luxury! My first big request was for a flushing toilet. Lourie bought me a campchairtoilet, and although it is much better than squatting, I struggle to face the longdrop! On the photo you can see me helping build the septic tank early one morning. It remains a mission because we don't have running water. But I don't mind travelling 100km for water, as long as I have a toilet! (chuckle) On the next photo you can see the orphans busy on the oxwagon after they delivered our water.

Yesterday I bought a piece of fabric (my mother-in-law will be proud of me!), because Pastor Sephensa told the chief about us, and we need to go and meet him true to their culture. He is Chief Singani. There are seven such chiefs, and each of them is appointed over his "province". It seems to me that it is almost as bad as the royals in England. I need to wear a dress (so I quickly made a skirt with the help of the generator)! We also need to take a gift with us. If you have the favour of the chief, even the government cannot touch you, so it is worth it to be in his good books! See the picture of the local chief, the elders and Lourie.

Ons het al 'n ontmoeting met die welsyn gehad en moes van die kinders verskuif omdat die huisies nie bewoonbaar is nie. Die kinders is nou by Mike waar ons drinkwater gaan oplaai (by 'n watersuiweringsaanleg) so 5 km van ons af. Op die foto het ek vir hulle van Susan Venter se klere gaan gee nadat ek gehoor het die kinders het net een stel kleertjies elk om aan te trek. Hulle wonder hoekom gee mense hulle klere weg . . . "is hulle dan dood?"



Ons is uitgenooi om Saterdagmiddag 2 uur na 'n paartjie vergadering van die kerk te gaan in Choma. Dit word gereël deur die kerk wat ons bywoon – Yahweh Centre. Die pastoor is 'n regte Engelse Zambier – pastor Steleka. Hy kan nie lekker Tonga (dis die taal van ons streek) praat nie, maar hy is vlot in Engels en daarom het ons maar besluit om te gaan ondersoek instel. Hulle het ook selgroep byeenkoms Woensdag aande, maar die pad is te erg om dit in die aand daarop te waag, so ons sal maar met ons plaaslike groepie begin selgroep hou. Nou ja, dit sal nogal interessant wees om meer van die kulkultuur te leer. Die vroue is baie konserwatief, maar die manne . . . dis waar die vigs oorneem! Dis nou nog 'n rede hoekom ek 'n romp moes maak. Hulle aanvaar dit as 'n Unzungu (witmens) 'n broek aantrek (dames), maar dis nie algemeen in hulle kultuur nie.



Hier is nou 'n foto van my nuwe kombuis. Ek sal volgende keer 'n opgedateerde een stuur. Ek en Lourie het werksoppervlaktes van sement gegooi – baie modern! Daar staan my opwasbak al in die hoek! Op die volgende foto is mama Kalaluka aan die linkerkant en Pastoor Sephensa en Mary, sy vrou aan die regterkant.



Daar is 72 stamme in Zambië en ons area (suid) praat Tonga. Die meeste mense kan Engels verstaan en praat, maar ek glo nie lees nie. Ons het uitgevind dat 'n Bybel in Tonga 50 000 Kwacha (dis so £10) kos. Ja, erg vir 'n



We have met with Social Services and had to move some of the children because the houses are not habitable. The children are now with Mike, where we fetch our drinking water (at a water purifying plant) about 5km from us. On the photo I took some of Susan Venter's clothes to them after I heard they only have one set of clothes each to wear. They were very interested to know why someone gave away the clothes . . . "has someone died?"

We are invited to go to a couples meeting on Saturday at the church in Choma. It is organised by the church we attend – Yahweh Centre. The pastor is a real English Zambian – pastor Steleka. He is not very good at Tonga (the language that is spoken in our area), but is fluent in English, and therefore we have decided to go and have a look at what will be going on. They also have a home cell meeting on a Wednesday evening, but the road is too bad to travel on at night, so we will start a home cell group locally. Well, it will be most interesting to learn a bit more about their culture. The women here are very conservative, but the men, well, that's a different story. That is where aids take over! That is another reason why I had to make a skirt. They accept it if an Unzungu (white) wears trousers (lady), but it is not commonplace in their culture for ladies to wear trousers.

Also see the photo of my new kitchen. I will send a more updated version next time! Lourie and I have made worktops of cement – very modern! You can also spot my sink in the corner! On the next photo you can see mama Kalaluka on the left, and Pastor Sephensa and his wife Mary on the right.

There are 72 tribes in Zambia and the language in our area (south) is Tonga. Most people can understand and speak English, but I don't believe they can read it. We found out that Bible in Tonga costs 50 000 Kwacha (about £10).

Bybel, nê? Ons wil maar kyk of ons nie elke maand so 'n paar kan koop nie, want hoe hoor jy God se stem as jy nie die Bybel het nie? Of hoe leer jy Jesus beter ken?

Ek het gister 'n varkie gekoop, maar hy het al drie keer weggehardloop - terug na sy familie toe. Toe vra ek maar of ons nie vir hom 'n maatjie ook kan koop nie. Ek sal julle laat weet of Pienkie nog daar is volgende keer, en of hy 'n maatjie het.

Ons het verlede week die eerste fondasies vir die hoenderhokke gegooi, daar is 30 hoenders op bestelling vanuit die omliggende dorpie. Ons wil almal betrek by die projek, so het gedink as ons plaaslike hoeders koop, die mense sal voel hulle het deel daaraan (ek hoop nie hulle gaan ook almal weer terug nie!).

Tot volgende keer.

Leza amololeke

(God seën jou!)



Terrible, don't you think? We want to try and buy a few Bibles in Tonga each month, because how do you hear God's voice, or get to know Jesus better if you don't have one?

I bought a pig yesterday, but he has run away to his family three times already! So I have asked if we can buy a mate for him. I will let you know next time if Pinky is still here, and whether or not he has a mate.

We laid the first foundations last week for the chicken coups and we have 30 chickens on order from surrounding villages. We really want to involve everyone in the project, so we thought it would be good if we bought local chickens. Then the people can feel that they are part of the project (I just hope they don't also go AWOL!).

Till next time.

Leza amololeke

(God bless you!)

**Gisela & Lourie**

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