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Dear family and friends

The month of April is such a nice time of the year in Zambia! Although the nights are slightly cooler now, we still have lovely mild day temperatures. We have also come to the end of the rainy season which is already noticeable in the fields around us. It also reminds us of the seasons in our own lives, doesn't it?

Projects and personal

We arrived back home late yesterday afternoon after a very successful and blessed outreach with “Doctors for Life” to the unspoilt west of Zambia. The mission of “Doctors for Life” is to spread the Gospel of Jesus by providing medical services to the unreached. It was such a blessing to be able to spend the time with a team of people who have so unselfishly given up their time to be God's mouths, hands and feet during this outreach and we have again been reminded of God's grace for everyone. We spent the first part of the outreach in an area just north of Katima Mulilo (some of you would remember this town from the days of the bush war) and for the second part we moved to the banks of the Cuando River on the border with Angola. The team is on the picture on the right. “Doctors for Life” has a well equipped theatre on the back of a truck where two eye specialists from South Africa were doing life changing eye operations during this outreach. Many older people are blind as a result of cataracts and it was so amazing to see their joy when they realized they could see again. The specialists for the first part of the outreach were Carl-Heinz Kruse and Claire Cullen from Durban and for the second part we had Shaun Thomson from Magoebaskloof/Tzaneen and Lourens Coetzee from Bloemfontein.

We pitched our tents near a clinic for the first week and near a school for the second part and was it not for the team who were responsible for the logistics things would not have worked out so well. The support team with Pieter Bos and Tobie Vente, were even responsible for cutting trees and branches to allow access on the road(?) for the mobile theatre. Tobie's other half, Maryna, was our cook and what a marvellous job she did!

The outreach team

Mobile theatre

Liewe vriende en familie!

April is 'n baie lekker maand in Zambië; die dagtemperature is baie matig alhoewel die nagte nou bietjie koeler word. Ons het ook nou aan die einde van ons reënseisoen gekom en ons kan dit sommer alreeds aan die plantegroei sien. Ja, dit herinner so baie aan die seisoene in ons eie lewens ne' !

Projekte en persoonlik

Sjoe, ons het laat gistermiddag lekker moeg teruggekeer van 'n baie suksesvolle en geseënde uitreik saam met “Docters for Life” na die ongerepte, weste van Zambië. “Docters for Life” se missie is om die goeie nuus van Jesus uit te dra met behulp van mediese hulp aan die onbereiktes. Dit was wonderlik om deel van 'n span mense te wees wat so onbaatsugtig van hulle tyd afgestaan het om God se hande en voete en monde te wees en so bewus te wees van God se genade vir ons almal. Die eerste gedeelte van die uitreik was net noord van Katima Mulilo (baie van julle sal dit onthou as 'n belangrike basis gedurende ons grensoorloë). Die tweede week het ons verskuif na die oewer van die Kuandorivier op die grens met Angola. Links is die span wat saamgewerk het. “Docters for Life” het 'n mobiele teater waar 2 oogspesialiste van SA die wonderlikste oogoperasies gedoen het gedurende die uitreik. Baie ou mense word blind agv katarakte en dit was so verblydend om die vreugde te sien op die gesigte as hulle besef hulle kan weer sien. Die spesialiste gedurende die eerste week van die uitreik was Carl-Heinz Kruse en Claire Cullen van Durban, en vir die tweede deel van die uitreik het Shaun Thomson van Magoebaskloof/Tzaneen en Lourens Coetzee van Bloemfontein die teater beman.

Ons het gedurende die 2 weke uitreik in tente gewoon en in 'n skooltjie ons kliniek opgestel. Daar was ook 'n ondersteuningspan (Pieter Bos en Tobie Vente) wat onder andere takke moes afsaag om die paaie begaanbaar te maak vir die hoogte van die teater agterop 'n vragmotor. Tobie se wederhelf, Maryna, van Pretoria, was ons kok en het haar uitstekend van haar taak gekwyt. Sy moes fyn beplan om vir ons almal kos te maak, en dit was smulkos! Daar was met middagetes selfs so veel as 30 eters.

It took some planning from Maryna to feed so many, for there were as many as thirty hungry mouths at certain times. The places we visited were so remote that we had to make use of interpreters and a team with staff nurse Lihana van der Merwe, from Hope Church, fulfilled this unselfish task.

On the picture are Lourie and his assistant/interpreter, Brian. Some 350 teeth were removed during this time. Hennie Bos and I were responsible for the many prescriptions, with Catherine, our interpreter. Johan Claasen was the organiser of the trip while Evelin Bester was the general practitioner and Angelika the theatre nurse. Vincent van Zyl was the team pastor all the way from the Cape Province.

Back at home in Choma some of our children attended holiday school and some of the others are building a shelter for a widow whose little house burnt down.

We want to thank the dentists in England who contributed dental stuff for the outreach. You will be blessed!

Prayer requests:

- Thank God for such a successful outreach to the Barotse plains.
- Thank God for good health and a safe return.
- Please pray for our orphans.
- We thank God for those who support us!
- We thank God for those who remember us in prayer!

Blessings!

Lourie & Gisela Ferreira

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Hierdie plekke is so afgeleë dat ons moes gebruik maak van tolke en 'n span van Hope Church onder leiding van Lihana van der Merwe het hierdie taak verrig.

Links is Lourie met sy assistant/tolk. Daar is 350 tande getrek gedurende die uitreik. Ek en Hennie Bos het die apteek beman, met Katherine wat vir ons getolk het. Johan Claasen was die organiseerder, Evelin Bester die GP, en Lihana en Angelika was die susters. Vincent van Zyl was ons prediker, al die pad van die Kaap af.

Terug by die huis, in Choma, is al ons kinders nog met vakansie. Van ons kinders het vakansieskool bygewoon en ander het hulself besig gehou met gemeenskapswerk. Lourie met van die seuns wat die pastoor gaan help om 'n hut te bou vir 'n weduwee wie se huisie afgebrand het. So is die tyd ook 'n geskarrel van 'n ander aard om al die kinders weer gereed te kry vir teruggaan skooltoe.

Baie dankie aan die tandartse in Engeland wat tandheelkundevoorrade geskenk het vir die uitreik. Ons spreek seën uit oor julle praktyke!

Gebedsversoeke:

- Sê saam dankie vir 'n suksesvolle uitreik na die Barotse vloedvlaktes.
- Sê saam dankie vir goeie gesondheid en veilige terugkeer.
- Bid saam vir ons weeskinders.

Dankie vir julle ondersteuning en gebede.

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