

Newsletter Tanzania December 2009

Santa Claus has returned to Spain, the first Christmas trees have been decorated and now....on to Christmas. Have you ever celebrated Christmas in the tropics, for example in Mwanza? Certainly not a White Christmas. Hoja and Marga are already back in warm Mwanza, and inform us about the latest developments. Reading material for under the Christmas tree.

Mwanza town.

Mwanza is now a real city with high rise buildings, there is a huge fish and a waterfall on the roundabout and the first traffic lights appear in the streets. During the first few days after the first traffic light was put in use, it was very busy at the roundabout. Some people, sitting on little chairs and watching the traffic, were amazed about the progress in Mwanza. Like the comments of the Dutch comedian Herman Finkers about Almelo: "there is always something to be seen, the traffic lights changes from red to green". A few months later, many motorists, pedestrians and moped riders completely ignore the lights and continue to drive or walk when the light is red!

Back Home House.

In the period from June to November, 80 new street children came to Upendo Daima. They came from far away to Mwanza. Sometimes on foot or sometimes by bus. Our street workers try to make an arrangement with the bus companies that children under 12 years, without parents or family support, are no longer allowed in the bus. We have been able to bring 28 children back to their homes, and 4 children have been transferred to Malimbe. Some of the children have left the BHH, since they were (yet) unable to adjust to a structured lifestyle. A number of them we will certainly find back on the street and then we will simply try again. It is great to see that people and organizations in Mwanza are aware of what we are doing, like for instance the Barclays Bank. Last year, they planted trees and donated two swings for Malimbe Family. This year they have completely painted the inside of the BHH! The construction of the new dormitory is in full swing. Because of the high groundwater level, there are more problems than initially thought. An additional new septic tank has been installed, the old one has been repaired and the drainage system has been improved. It is anticipated that the dormitory will be completed early next year. Some 20 to 30 children will be able to sleep there.

The story of Lama Williams - a contribution of Sister Monica.

Lama is only eight years old; he is the eldest of a family with three children. His father is a fisherman; his mother takes care of the household. Lama came on the street, because he was often beaten at home. As the oldest he had to do the hard work, such as fetching water in a bucket some 1,5 km from his house, washing clothes, doing the dishes, and look after his little brother and sister. He decided to run away. On 18 November, we found him on the streets and he went with us to the Back Home House. His family wanted to take him away. But first, we have held talks with his father, mother and grandmother. It turned out, that there was considerable disagreement about the way the boy should be raised and the many tasks he had to carry out. First, we had a number of counselling discussions, and as a result we have jointly made a plan to reunite Lama with his family. Lama is back home, and we visiting him from time to time to keep a finger on the pulse and provide help when necessary.

Malimbe Family.

There is a lot going on in Malimbe Family. Based on experience we had to adjust the policy for the older boys. It is no longer possible to have them under one roof with the primary school children. They live in their own world with their own needs. We know out of experience and that several boys are able to live at home with financial support of Upendo Daima. This is a positive result of the fact that already for years all our children go home during the school holidays and therefore have maintained a relationship with their family. Some 5 boys, who cannot return home, have been registered at several boarding schools.

In January 2010, the new school year starts. So everyone is closely following if the boys will pass their exams. For the 8 school leavers it is even more exiting; will they be able to go the high school, or will they find continued education somewhere else?

The First Aid house is not yet fully operational. A few administrative problems have to be resolved before we can really start.

Unfortunately, we had to sell the last cows; we were not able to look after them with the means at our disposal. However, our home garden looks very good, and the children are taught how to grow their own food.

Makongoro Workshop

After examination by one of our staff, who has studied Business Management, we came to the conclusion that a takeover would be a too great a risk. Despite the fact that we did not take over the workshop, our boys can nevertheless still work there to gain real practical experience. We help some of the boys of UDO setting up their own company. The tools, which we received from the Third World workshop, are already in our possession, and full is made of them by the boys.

Networking

Each month, a number of NGO's meet, and we discuss all kind of problems which are relevant to us and exchange ideas. This group becomes stronger and stronger, and we are already able to raise matters with the government which we consider to be incorrect. A visit of Hoja to "Mobile Youth" in Germany was followed up by a visit to an organization like our own, in Kenya. Mama Isabella also provides new contacts, and she has visited the NNOC in Dar es Salaam.

Hoja and Marga's visit to the Netherlands.

Every two years Hoja and I go to the Netherlands for a holiday. Of course, we also work hard to maintain the contacts with our grassroots supporters in the Netherlands and Germany, and build new contacts. The meetings with Upendo Daima Nederland, CORDAID and CMC as well as our visit to the SMA were very fruitful. We were very fortunate that we could make use of a car and a beautiful house in the middle of the forests of Leersum. The most important reason was to see my daughter with her family, and meet my family members and friends. The donors ' day on 5 September and, among other things, the visit to the Paulus Parish in Loosdrecht were a great success. Our visit to Würzburg in Germany was also important. We have now to become kind of a big family. We have visited schools, told our story on the Mainfrankenmesse and explored the city.

Finally I would like to thank everyone very much for the support of our wonderful project. Without your support, we would never be able to come as far as we did.

From Tanzania the children and the entire team, wish you are all a very happy Christmas time and peace and prosperity.

Newsletter the Netherlands December 2009

The activities and sponsor initiatives

On 5 September the biennial donors' day was held again in Utrecht. There was a bit of a cool breeze but it was dry and the sun appeared from time to time; the 80 visitors enjoyed a very good gathering. The sale of all kinds of Tanzanian products, second hand books and nice bottles of wine, as well as a real palmist, generated money for the project.

But the briefings of Hoja and Marga, and the fact that all of the friends of the project were able to meet, were the main highlights of the day. Hopefully we can meet again in two years time at the same location. The "Boekenlegger" in Tiel has this year done a wonderful job again, and 8000 Euro was recently received on our account. The internet sales, the participation in book-markets, fairs, and the sales of books in connection with lectures and school visits, the sale of paintings and the result of the street sales "Zennewijnen" yielded this result.

The last few weeks we were pleasantly surprised to receive a number of special gifts. Haemisch Robin and Anna Lemcke generated 5100 Euro with their action "Kicken für Africa". All of a sudden Mr Buysrogge surprised us with a donation of 5000 Euro. We would like to congratulate the family Van Kessel with their 60th wedding anniversary and thank them for all the money that their guests donated to our project.

Bert Satijn and Loek Drenth also celebrated their birthdays. It is normally a little boring to ask for an envelope with money, but all the guests considered a donation for the kids in Mwanza a great idea. This may also be a good idea for new friends of Upendo Daima? We in the Netherlands have already so much anyway.

Maarten Zilverberg, a former volunteer in Mwanza, approached it in a different way. He has organised a sponsored Kilimanjaro climb, and collected 1237, 13 Euro for the children of Malimbe Family.

As you can see, we remain very active to provide financial support for all the work in Mwanza. And that remains necessary. Do you find it difficult to come up with a Christmas present, just put a little envelope with some money under the tree, and as destination the Mwanza Street Children -project. You can transfer your money to the bank account number 10.22.27.365 of Upendo Daima Nederland Foundation. We guarantee that the money will be well spent.

The Management Board

The management board has met twice during the autumn, in order to discuss all the current issues and to initiate new initiatives. Marga and Hoja attended of course, and this gave us a good

opportunity to exchange views on the future and a number of strategic issues. We regularly use email and Skype to communicate with Mwanza, but the face to face meetings are still the best.

After having been active for some six years we said farewell to Mienieke Elkhuisen. During the donors' day, we have put her in the limelight. Mienieke, many thanks you for all your efforts.

On 24 August, Monique and Hetty paid a visit to Cordaid together with Marga and Hoja. On the agenda were the work done up till now, and above all, the future of the project. A major point to be addressed is the creation of a local network, and Cordaid provided several suggestions. Cordaid was pleased to hear about the efforts that have already been made to build a local network.

Our new chairman Maria van Strijp visited Mwanza in November. It is good to visit the project from time to time, and meet with the Tanzanian staff to review all ongoing issues. The board members always pay their own travel expenses, so that the proceeds of all initiatives and donations can be fully dedicated to the project. With the help of Rien de Weerd our website is now being modified and a new program will be used. This gives the management team of Upendo Daima Nederland the opportunity to include all relevant news, photographs, films and reports on the website, so that everyone in the Netherlands is able to follow the developments in Mwanza even better. You will be notified as soon as the site is ready.

We wish you all fine Christmas and a healthy and happy new year. We very much hope that the children of Upendo Daima can also rely on your support in 2010.