



Newsletter nr. 50, May 2014

Back to Africa??

Dear friends,

We have arrived at the next phase of our lives: the children have almost left home (Joas got a job in Eindhoven, about 95 kms away) and although the 'empty nest' generates very mixed feelings ;-)) it is also a time of investigating our future together. That is why the above question occupied our minds intensely. And as with any question, 2 answers are possible:

NO, we are not going back, because our children live here and we want to grow good relationships with our beautiful grandchildren. We want to care for our mothers. And we live safely here.

Each of these are valid reasons to stay in The Netherlands. YET...

- Both of us know that we have been called for missions
- We want to obey God more than our feelings
- Steef and I long to make our lives count and make a difference
- We want to work together in the Kingdom of God
- We perceive God's calling continually!

White River

It might have been logical for us to return to Benoni and continue where we left off. Yet, we felt the Lord leading us to another province, Mpumalanga and more specifically: White River.

We were there in February and, as we had hoped, many doors for ministry opened widely! Steef, among other activities, will teach from time to time at the *Africa School of Missions* in White River. He will teach a course in elementary missiology. There is also a possibility for me to participate in teaching a literary class that they organise. Many adults cannot read or write. Then there is *Back Door Ministries*, who started a large project near White River. They have a Bible school, a food project, sewing- and computer classes, Bible lessons for children and Bible studies for women. They would like me to work with them at the latter two.

Strengthen My Church!

We have decided to honor both requests: that of the Africa School of Missions and the projects of Back Door Ministries. We experience increasingly God's heart calling us to strengthen His church. Steef notices often during his mission courses how very limited the students' Bible knowledge is. We look into possibilities to work from White River with local, non-white churches. What is their need? About what topics do they need teaching? Do they need help with the setting up of a children's church? Can we strengthen them? If we do, we build a good basis from which they can send out followers of Jesus to places where the gospel has not yet been preached.

It is a ministry that we would like to take on together, each serving the church with our own gifts. From White River it will also be simple to reach out to Swaziland and Mozambique. In those areas there are many open doors too. We have been in Swaziland several times lately, but also the church in Mozambique needs a lot of strengthening.

It is Time to Go!

Now is the time to act. Steef has been traveling to Africa all these years that we lived in Holland. However, both of us are enthusiastic about ministering in Africa and we want to go together. For the time being we have decided to go twice a year for three months each. In order to do so it became clear to us that we had to give up our house. That comes at an emotional cost, for us as well as for the children. Right it is up for sale.



Meanwhile we have bought a parkhome, in order to have a place to stay when we are in Holland, situated in Bennekom, only 15 minutes by car from where we live now.

Wanted: Sponsors!

We try to live as cheaply as possible. During the times that we are in the Netherlands we will both try to take on jobs: taxi work for Steef, primary school teaching (replacement) for me, although job opportunities in our country are ever decreasing. We hope to be able to support ourselves when being in Holland. But for the other six months of every year we will certainly need your support! Therefore we call on you, readers, friends and people who are involved in missions: would you consider please to support us in this new adventure?

September – November 2014

Already this year we will spend our first 3-month period in Africa, roughly from September through November. As it looks now we will probably first spend some weeks, teaching in the Benoni area. After that we hope to go to White River. It is quite an adventure that may involve buying a car, renting accommodation, etc. We will have to trust in God's guidance each day as we explore the local options. We will keep you posted as well as we can on our site www.recruiting4missions.org There we will post our updates, so that you as friends and supporters can remain involved in our ministries. Well, how do you end a newsletter like that? TO BE CONTINUED! 😊 Will you pray with us?

Cordial greetings and blessings from

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