

March
2017

Lichinga, Niassa
Moçambique

Deutschland



Dear friends and family,

Warm greetings from the rainy season in the north of Mozambique!

This means a very good harvest is to be expected, at least here - while Maputo, 3.500 km to the south, has water restrictions due to drought.

I keep the closets and windows open all the time for airing against the mould - it will continue to be like this for about 4 weeks until the end of this season. Temperatures of 17-30 degrees (62-80 Fahrenheit) daily! Lichinga is located 1.380m high.

NEW

I am in the process of becoming a SIM member! "Sudan Interior Mission", is active worldwide. So I have a new partner mission organization here, the "Sociedade Internacional dos Missionarios" (SIM, local translation).

In October I got to know missionaries here and became familiar with them, and I also wanted more interchange as well as contact.

Networking is vital here! Working on my own is not easy for me, especially since I only know a few Mozambicans with whom I could work. So, registering my own organization is almost impossible at the moment. I am also unknown to the authorities; I have only spent a few months here. Because of many new legislation and bureaucratic requirements, it may be necessary to renew my still valid residence permit. Without such a well-known and nationally registered organization, hardly any missionary activity will be possible for me.

So I am very grateful that Globe Mission and SIM have developed a partner contract. This is also helpful for the future as to bigger donations for e.g. construction projects - easier handling and maintenance here since SIM has an account in South Africa and here on site, project-related.

If you want to know more: www.sim.ch or www.globemission.org or ask me.

Bea: She helps me to keep the relatively big house clean once a week. This way she has a job and I always learn something about the culture, which never stops. I support her with a business; 4 weeks ago she started to sale rice, charcoal and cakes from her home. She lives alone with her mother and her own 3 children. For a lot of women there is hardly any way to make money, except prostitution.

Gertrude:

5 year old, undernourished for years, weighs 5.4 kg. Since December I have visited her together with Mary, a missionary from England, at least once a week. She is severely restricted, cannot speak, sit alone or move. She is so much "extra work" and takes a lot of time. The under-nutrition must be resolved, so the weight can be normalized, and then physiotherapy can follow. Both parents work, all people living in the house are visibly doing very well - except Gerti. Unfortunately, there are often other, spiritual reasons behind the child's condition. Gerti needs a lot of prayer - so does her Aunt, who is responsible for her care.

Mary has brought milk powder, and I my experience with malnourished children. We have explained everything and the child is always weighed. Often disappointment and despair prevails, when in other regions the child would be cared for in "institutions", which is not possible here. Nobody would stand for her. We often felt that the child was actively starving in spite of our milk supply, even though she was never sick. The active feeding was missing!

In the hospital too, such a child is rejected by "Diagnosis": "That never changes." Nor is there any further investigation for tuberculosis or hormonal (thyroid) disorders. It is hard to find the right words. It seems that for the first time in many weeks her weight has increased by 400 grams: 5.3 to 5.7 kg in 3 days - this after a serious talk during the last visit. Please continue to pray!



Gerti with her older sister



Since I am not able to work in the hospital, physiotherapy department, as a Volunteer, because of the lack of permission from the health authority in Maputo (I ask every week for months), despite all the documents, I was asked several times from different sites to help and supervise as a nurse.



Mary helps Elias

Mary from England has been involved with children throughout her life, including "foster care" and as kindergarten nurse, where she also did simple physiotherapy and coordination exercises.

The cousin of Caro, two years old, burned his left hand as well as the edge of his left ear with boiling hot mash, had infections, fever and suffered continuously with severe pain. In the hospital he was given hydrogen peroxide, for example, for "cleaning", with a brush! I stopped this and we (or I) helped with antibiotics and Vaseline, and showed the mother how to make wound dressings etc. We visited him every 2nd day and there was constant progress: Within a week there was almost complete healing. I see this as a miracle, since in the current rainy season everything is even more difficult to keep clean! In addition, a child in Europe or the US having such burns would have been treated in hospital and under sterile conditions.



Carolina

is 11 years old and has been severely handicapped since her birth, when her mother died: Walking problems through a shortened leg, hip and spine displacement / coordination / balance problems, language restriction, etc.



She has been able to learn a lot with Mary, in the last year, concerning her fine motor skills and also walks better and enhanced her sitting balance. Now Mary has also got custom made orthopaedic shoes from England – by mail! Caro immediately walks better, and can sit more straight without a sitting aid.



In addition, she finally goes to school at the age of eleven! An incredible breakthrough and benefit for a child who has always been left behind with the assumption that "she cannot do it" (physically as well as mentally!)

According to my and Mary's assessment, Caro is mentally normal, understands everything, and responds to questions in an appropriate way. She only needs a little bit longer than other children because she has "CP" (cerebral paraesthesia), which means cerebral restrictions. So far she had been insecure and shy, and spoke, if at all, very quietly. Since she goes to school, she has improved dramatically, for she now calls her cousins and friends with a loud voice.

In addition, both caregiver - the father and his second wife - said that Caro's saliva is no longer running uncontrolled since she's doing Mary's exercises!

In March, a physiotherapist from England who is a friend of Mary will visit us and help us to learn better exercises for children like Caro.

Marga and her baby:

mother HIVpos., the baby possibly also – at the moment in hospital because of malnutrition, and dehydration due to diarrhea and vomiting for days already.

We have visited them, asked many questions and gave explanations as well as prayed for them when we left.

It is about acceptance, the truth about the HIV diagnosis, to take medication lifelong and go to the "follow-up" in hospital.

Many patients are ashamed and very afraid to go to the local "curandeiro / feticeiro", the magic "healer". It's the same like in any other region where I have lived over the last 14 years.

Edi, a seven-year-old boy: he has survived meningitis and malaria, was in hospital for a long time.

As a result, he has lost a lot of body weight; got a flaccid paralysis of both legs, has hardly power to sit down.

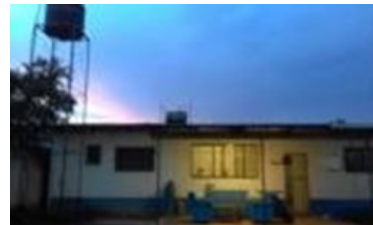
But there is a lot of energy and courage in him!

I've got him dry milk (powdered) and peanut butter, to get a faster weight gain. His mother sometimes carries him to the hospital for physical therapy when she has the money and time to do so. It is an hour's walk, although by car or motorbike it only takes 10 minutes.

I am grateful for the **safe apartment so far, as well as the guards**, right here in the middle of the city of Lichinga.

I've got used to everything. I may be living with an Australian woman from April onwards, who is also a missionary.

Waiting here on my own, to realize what the next step looks like, to follow God's guidance - is a great challenge daily, and a time of growing deeper with God, staying firmly with Him, trusting Him. I am very grateful to know that so many of you faithfully pray for me. THANK YOU. It means very much to me!



Also Whatsapp calls from my parents, my sister, girlfriends, church leaders as well as Globe Director are very encouraging and a good contact opportunity.



Also I regularly received various, intact parcels from Germany, all of which only took about 20 days; a huge gift.



Helen and I, a very good friend from Maputo to visit for 4 days! Thanks Helen, this visit was a big encouragement!

PRAYER:

- Housing from the end of March onwards
- Documents...! Patience, perseverance
- Continuous partnership between Globe Mission, SIM-Switzerland and SIM Mozambique.
- Further acquaintances, establishing of relationships of mothers with disabled children
- Local prayer partner
- Team building
- A good friend has a horse. His name is "Tikvah" (Hebrew) means "hope". It has been given to me as a gift, but of course needs a pasture.
- Ground, farm



This tree is a symbol of overcoming odds. Caught between a rock and hard place choose to grow. It's not what happens around you that matters ...it's what happens inside you. All things are possible. Trust God and keep walking.

The tree from the second photo I found here!



Time in Germany, Switzerland and Holland: estimated July - August 2017.
I am looking forward to seeing you again and meeting you "live".

"For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible."

Colossians 1:16

"If indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven."

Colossians 1:23

Warm regards,

Heide

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