

*Dear family, dear friends!*

**May  
2012**

*Chimoio, Manica  
Moçambique*

*Germany*



**I have already had many occasions in this year I am thankful for:**

Thanks to my church I was able to pay the airplane tickets to spend 2 ½ months in and around Germany.

I was rather tired and felt empty after 1 ½ years in Mozambique – and appreciated a break.

We often wonder about the early missionaries... leaving forever, without internet or telephone-contact, no mail...



I arrived at the wintry airport in Frankfurt after wet and hot weather in Mozambique, temperatures around 30°C – a medium “shock”.



**Walls of snow, Switzerland, Klausen-Pass**



**My parents**



**My brother (Adrian), my sister (Julia) and myself**

I spent a lot of time with family and very close friends with children, saw a lot of snow!- yet the first warm spring days as well.

- and often visited a polish black horse called Matylda.. That's like vacation to me. Spending time with horse, nature and people who love that, too...

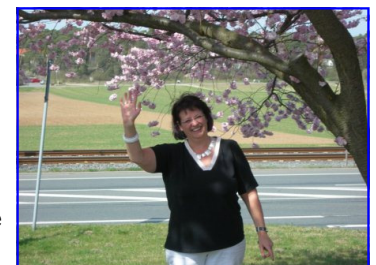


Also several vacations, examinations and treatments at doctors and dentist were due. Actually I mostly enjoyed visiting the dentist --)! Quick care... brilliant.

**Farewell – was not easy once again.**

I had such great times and experiences with many among you. I highly appreciate your hospitality and acceptance, especially to Helena, Marc and family.

For better communication some dear friends gave me a new, super brilliant laptop – unfortunately this area did not enter the 21<sup>st</sup> century, yet. No good sending connection, reception is quite good so far. Even Skype worked rather well at some point!



**My friend Uli saying goodbye**

Better than jungle drums – our neighbours shout from valley to valley.

**HEIDE ZWIRNER**

**Newsletter**

## Mozambique: Fall is nearing!

At this time of the year people harvest maize and plant beans afterwards – so did I, with the help of three to four day labourers who are tilling part of the land I bought in 2010.



That works with many questions back and forth (I don't know much about local farming yet!).

Much to learn, everything depends on the weather; rain is essential, the right amount at the right time.

Due to the lack of rain in February we are expecting HUNGER in a few months.

Maize harvest was scarce, often brown and dry.

M. who cared for the horses as good as possible – his job to provide for his family – works partly on the fields as well. His main job is on the clinic compound, f. e. cutting the grass, maintaining order, helping with food transport, fixing broken fence posts eaten by termites etc.

Maize flour is specific aid for the most indigent among the HIV /TB patients – and is donated from us in the baby clinic.

If the mother is doing better, the baby is cared for better as well. We often have to secure the provision by investigating relatives – social, work, conciliating between hostile families, because of rain, caving walls etc. (Adobe bricks, burnt in an oven or just dried in the sun).

## ISRAEL



Thanks to some special occasions, even a wonderful visit with the “de Terebint” community in Holland I decided on a trip to Israel for one week.

That was a great gift.

It was also following a dream and a heart's desire:

I was able to visit INTRA, the biggest Israeli facility for therapeutic riding.

I was very impressed by the work with people with very different limitations. The horses are healing instruments. I could see for myself changes, expressions of joy and independence in people who were chained to the wheelchair. Children who are hardly able to concentrate were attentive, because otherwise they could not steer the horse or achieve the exercise.



Olive tree



I had a special time with **Corrie** – she works with Russian homecomers in Jerusalem. They fall through the social net, are often very poor and (them being older) often sick. She is a nurse and visits their homes and is often the only hope and excitement of the week or even the month. People receive encouragement besides medical help.

## My horses

I was also able to visit my horses, they are doing well, except for the great heat there. They are now about 150km away and it is not possible for me to visit them too often.

Both horses are on a big paddock with trees and buffalo grass together with a 6 months old foal whose mother died a month ago. That makes it a small herd. I appreciate that, although I miss Ely and Angel here.

On the property they used to be on, we have now planted beans for the expected starvation.

## Beans



### What we experience at the baby clinic:

#### 1) Changing bandages

B. is 14 years old, weighs nearly 27kg, 2kg more than last week.

He has a big head injury and cancer in his skull bone.

We change his bandages, give material, antibiotics, food – and hope for the family.

Up to this point B. has surprisingly little pain.

Taking fear is a great help, because the first reaction to a sickness like that is always fear, especially to be cursed. We asked them repeatedly not to choose the traditional way anymore – going to the medicine man, because the danger of bleeding or infection is huge.

At least B. knows a little what to expect: changing bandages and – if God won't perform a miracle – unfortunately no healing. His wounds look very clean and nearly declining under antibiotics and nourishment, vitamins etc.



#### 2) S. and D.

Is it 'just' the contrast after visiting Europe and seeing the (nearly) altogether good environment...

A dark adobe house, no windows – here lives one of our patients alone with her third son. She is very thin herself, less than 30kg.

Taking S. and her three year old son home on Wednesday I only thought that she needs support cleaning her house, cooking, bringing wood in and everything, especially because of her son. She is refused by her family, because she made a mistake in the past and they are offended. They even steal the little food she has. We hired a reliable lady on a daily basis who will now tend to those daily tasks. S. appreciates that very much and smiles a little more... encouraging to see. She has the rare blood type O and her haemoglobin was beneath 5,5 – no transfusion in sight at this time and her family refuses help – this week an American lady visiting us agrees to give her own blood! That happened three days ago in a local hospital. That was exceptional for the staff as well as the people here: a stranger donating blood to a sick woman! A great testimony, indeed.

A direct answer to a life threatening situation! Every day of survival is a victory. The question remains who is going to care for her three year old son after she will be gone. The next step will be the beginning of ARVs. They were not given until now due to the low haemoglobin. Hope is now rising.



**Mother of twins!**  
**Good idea to care for BOTH of them,**  
**isn't it?**



#### 3) B., 5 years

Left leg: about 10cm open shinbone: she is suffering a chronic necrotic infection (osteomyelitis), assumedly a tropical ulcer.

We talked everything through with the relatives, but no reaction due to the father's and grandfather's ban – nothing except family visits in the bush with the local witch doctor. The child is really very ill, an amputation underneath the knee is necessary. She would need travelling documents to travel to Zimbabwe where the operation could be done. She can hardly walk, her whole leg and foot are dislocated.



When she came to the clinic on Thursday we advised a visit at the big hospital in Chimoio. Her mother is understandably afraid, but we explained that there was no other way and she agreed.

We met her in Chimoio on Monday – she as well as the child are doing well. It was possible to preserve the leg, the damaged bone was excised. B. will walk on the remaining fibula in the future.

She will need continuous prayers!

#### 4) Child F., severest undernourishment

An about 18 month old girl with a serious "Kwashiorkor" was brought to us by her father and grandmother. The child was apathetic in the beginning, but woke up slowly after giving ORS for several hours. Unfortunately her life was in danger and we had to take her to the hospital in Gondola. We left the child and her grandmother there. We have not had any information so far whether the child is alive. Maybe the grandmother took flight from the hospital, the therapy and the often corrupt staff together with the child (which would result in the child's death)

#### **Mozambique "facts":**

Worldwide leading coal export with a huge resource in the Tete province – electricity from the Cahora-Bassa-Dam... additional export of local resources like sugar, sisal, cashew nuts etc. That's what I read on my (mini) flight from JHB to Beira on March 31<sup>st</sup>: positive economical developments in Mozambique.



**Arrival Beira Airport**

You would think that Mozambique is developing well... that is certainly true, yet more than 70% of the people living in Mozambique are analphabetic.

The poorest are living directly beside the beautiful houses in town as well as in the rural areas around the towns. God has not forgotten them.

Are we making a difference? **YES**

We certainly don't have all the answers, especially to the question: "why are the children suffering?", but we know that God is on their side and has mercy on them. He lifts them up in their despair and is the only hope for all.

We can be examples and carry his grace, help the poor in hunger or hospital or need, build their houses, help with social problems... especially for the children. Tomorrow's future.

Thanks to every one of you that helps me to help here. Being here is a privilege – with all problems and challenges.

Thank you so much for helping me return rested and fuelled!

## Heide



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