

Newsletter December 2023

Dear friends,

It is a privilege to update you again on our adventures in Madagascar.

We've Booked the Tickets!

How quickly time goes by! We are already moving towards the new year. That also means that 14 February is approaching, which is the date we hope to cash our plane ticket to the Netherlands. After three years, we are coming back to the Netherlands for some months of furlough.

We have set aside a somewhat longer period for this furlough. We have several reasons for this. One reason is that Vanya will be taking her final exams. Issa will also take an exam (but not all of them yet). That means that, especially for the first few months, it won't be a holiday for them. They have studied their modules very well, but that doesn't mean they can sit back and relax.

During the furlough, we also hope to preach and give presentations about our work on Madagascar. We've noticed that maintaining contacts can become more difficult the longer you stay away—and three years is quite a long period. That is why we hope to give some presentations, across the country. Meanwhile, the weekends in March and April are already fully booked. We are really looking forward to catching up with everyone again.

Still Here

Before we go on furlough, we have some time to finalise things here on Madagascar. That sounds very promising ... But wrapping up actually means something like making sure we can pick up where we left off without much hassle when we get back.

Sambivelo

Jurgen hopes to travel to the village this month. He is going together with Vanya. They hope to have a great time together as we expect this will be Vanya's last trip to the village for now.

In Maroamboka, they hope to meet Sambivelo. The hospital in Ambovo has donated another box full of medicines and other medical items. Malaria medicines will be especially welcome. We don't really know at the moment how Sambivelo is doing because we can't reach him. Maybe his phone is broken, or the transmission tower has sunk into the ground.... You never know :) We'll just bring a new mobile phone for him just to be sure.

As recently as September, Jurgen spoke to Sambivelo in person. He said he was doing well and that he was also going back to school. People are starting to discover that he has a good grasp of healthcare. Every now and then, it is difficult because, as we predicted earlier, there are also people who want to take advantage of the fact that Sambivelo is still young. Even the official doctor down the road already let it be known that he is not too keen on the help Sambivelo offers to people. The doctor did not even approve of Sambivelo testing people for Malaria. We had also anticipated this jealousy, and had prepared Sambivelo for it. When the doctor called him out, Sambivelo said he was doing this with the permission and help of iaban'i Vanya (Jurgen, that is), and the other elders in the village. So, Jurgen hopes to speak to him again later this month and give him a heart-to-heart.

Our House in the Village

Jurgen will also bring various building materials. The wooden house could use some refurbishment. At least we hope to reattach the metal plates on the roof properly before the cyclone season arrives again.

Furthermore, Jurgen and Vanya will give the house a good cleaning.

We hope, during the furlough, to start using the house for Malagasy missionary students. Several initiatives are already under way in which enthusiastic Malagasy Christians are being taught about doing missionary work among their own countrymen.



Translation Work

Meanwhile, a good start has also been made on the translation of the book of Genesis. The first five chapters are digital and ready to be re-checked.

In the previous newsletter, we wrote that Menja (our translator) really wanted to have a laptop. We thought that to be a good idea and purchased one, which we gave to him in September. We hope it may be a blessing to him.

You can view the translations via our website:

Genesis [<https://www.jurgenenkatja.nl/en/genesis-in-malagasy-antanala>]

Acts of the Apostles [<https://www.jurgenenkatja.nl/en/acts-mg-antanala-dialect/>]

The Gospel of Luke [<https://www.jurgenenkatja.nl/en/luke-mg-antanala-dialect/>]

All the Work [<https://www.jurgenenkatja.nl/#translations>]

Iaban'i Velotia the King

You may also remember that in the last newsletter we told you the amazing news about the King of Beono. He had an impressive confrontation with the spiritual world. An evil spirit had taken shelter within the daughter of Iaban'i Velotia. The daughter was delivered by the power of Jesus and this made the king decide to follow Jesus together with his family.

Last September, Jurgen interviewed him, and that interview can be seen online, including subtitles:

Iaban'i Velotia's miraculous testimony [<https://www.jurgenenkatja.nl/amazing>]

Car

We would also like to thank you for the generous donations we have received for the maintenance of the car/motorbike. As we have explained before, here on Madagascar, cars get a lot of wear and tear and that means an ongoing cost in terms of maintenance/repairs. But since our appeal, several generous donations have come in, so we don't have to worry about this for the time being. We are grateful that you have also come alongside us in this way!

Thank you!

We hope that after reading this letter, you, like us, are also looking forward to what the future holds. We can make plans but one thing we know for sure: *"what the Lord intends, happens."* (Proverbs 19:21)

We feel privileged to receive so much support in our work.

Thank you for your prayers, compassion, and support!

**Together with you, we want to keep trusting in the Lord!
For God is good, always! And always God is good!**

We sincerely wish you God's blessing!

Katja & Jurgen
Vanya, Issa, Abbey, Dani and Siemen Hofmann



Jurgen & Katja

God dienen op Madagaskar



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Go to our website to find more ways to contact us:
www.jurgenenkatja.nl/en/

Support us!

Mandate form (UK donors)

Donors from other countries can contact the following offices:

US: receipting.us@aimint.org
EU: supporterfinance.eu@aimint.org
Tel: +44 (0)115 9838 133
NL: finance.nl@aimint.org
Tel: +31 (0)317 7124 67

Please go to our website for more details about how you can support us.

Things to pray for:

We are thankful because:

- 1) we serve a great God;
- 2) we can work towards our furlough in 2024;
- 3) the first five chapters of Genesis have been digitised;
- 4) we have been blessed in terms of donations for the car/motorbike;
- 5) Sambivelo's work has begun.

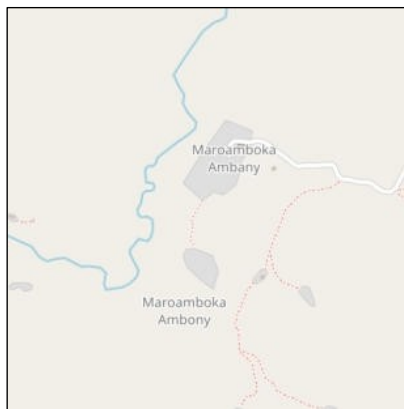
Pray that/for:

- 6) Vanya & Issa can prepare themselves well for their exams;
- 7) that jealousy among people towards Sambivelo may cease;
- 8) many may be blessed through the translations;
- 9) the final completion of the work before our furlough.

Where do we serve?

Location Openstreet Maps:
Maroamboka, Madagaskar-
[21.59506/47.87529](#)

Location Google Maps:
Maroamboka, Madagaskar-
[21.595055,47.875621](#)



Disclaimer

Thank you so much for your interest in our ministry to the Antanala people on Madagascar. We greatly appreciate the love and support of the wonderful people that God has put around us. This ministry is much larger than our family, and we cannot do it alone.

You have either signed up to receive this newsletter or you have been an important part of our lives and we thought you would like to know about our journey. If at any point you no longer want to receive this newsletter, please unsubscribe:

unsubscribe@jurgenenkatja.nl