



## Newsletter September 2025

Dear brothers, sisters and friends,

Are you curious to find out what's been happening with the Hofmann family on Madagascar? You're in luck, because here is the newsletter, hot off the press! For additional photos, you can go to our website:

<https://www.jurgenenkatja.nl/nieuws-september-2025/>

### All Together Once More ...

In July, we travelled to Maroamboka with the whole family. This time not to work, but to enjoy the beautiful country as a family ... In others words, a holiday!

The trip felt strange. It had been almost two years since Katja had been to the village and for Vanya this would be the last time for the time being. We'll come back to that later. We also had two celebrations ahead of us. The first celebration was our 28<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. It was actually on 14 August, but Katja and Vanya would already be in the Netherlands by then. The second celebration was Simeon's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday on 29 July!

For our wedding anniversary, we enjoyed a lovely diner as a family in the tourist town of Ranomafana. If you have been following us for a while, you may know that we always use this place as a stop-over during our travels. The people know us well and always give us a warm welcome. We stayed a few days longer before continuing our journey to Maroamboka.

The villagers were once again very enthusiastic to see us. Much of the attention was rightly focused on Katja. They hadn't seen her for such a long time! A common greeting in Madagascar is "*ino voavoa?*", which means "*is there any news?*" The answer is usually something like "*no, no news, everything is calm*". This time the answer was: "*The news? Vanya's mother is back!*" That was nice to hear. When I jokingly said that I was still there too, they told me I was '*old news*'! After all, they saw Vanya's father regularly ...

We celebrated Simeon's birthday with a homemade cake (we still have the gas oven in our house), and in the afternoon we played fun games. A variation on old Dutch games and picking sweets out of a tub of water using only your mouth. In the evening, we played hide and seek in the house. The latter is terribly exciting because you literally can't see a thing, it is pitch dark.

Katja also had a wonderful time. She loves walking, and there are plenty of opportunities for that in and around our village. The nature is beautiful! Every morning, she went for a short walk and then enjoyed her visitors, later that day, over a cup of tea. One of the visitors was endrin'i Tabo. This elderly lady has become a friend of Katja's over time. When endrin'i Tabo visits, the conversation is not only about illnesses, who died, and other hardships, but she also asks with genuine interest how Katja's family in the Netherlands are doing. Endrin'i Tabo is genuinely interested.

### Language Barrier

The fact that we still haven't mastered the dialect 100% is evident from the following incident. Friends told us that there was a man in hospital who had been attacked with, or by, a *kiso*. The word *kisoa* is the official Malagasy word for pig. So when they talked about a *kiso* (without an 'a'), we thought they were talking about a pig. That was strange because in the dialect such an animal is called *a lambo*. So we went to the local hospital to visit the victim. It turned out to be a strange conversation. The word *kiso*, without the 'a', is dialect for meat knife! So, while the family was talking about an attack with a knife, we were talking about an attack by a pig. Yes, said the family, the knife had been stabbed into his side. "*What a nasty animal!*" was our response. Later, back in the village, amid loud laughter, our friends explained to us that it was a knife attack. The family must have thought that we were calling the attacker a pig or something.

### The Attacker

After talking for a while longer, we discovered that the knife attacker was still at large. He was terrorising the upper part of our village. The man went around destroying everything he saw. When I asked why a group of strong men didn't go and get him, I was told that he had a knife! Yes, duh! I understood that, but when I said that a group could definitely apprehend such a man, there was silence. Everyone was afraid!



Well, someone had to do it, so together with the dog I walked up the hill. That's where we found him. He looked very angry, and you clearly he wasn't right in the head. In addition to the knife, he also had a long iron bar with which he began to threaten us. It was a strange situation. The dog didn't like it at all, so she bared her teeth. That only made the man angrier, so I sent the dog away. After a few minutes of conversation, I asked him to give me his weapons and to come with me quietly. By then, the police had already been called, and when they come to pick up a man like that, they take a much harder line.

He didn't want to come with me, nor did he want to hand over his weapons. Instead, he made a move to hit me, so the dog jumped in between us again. Good dog! That diverted the man's attention away from me and towards the dog. Long story short, I decided it was better to leave because I didn't want a dead dog on my hands. Fortunately, the dog listened and came with me. The man suddenly ran after us, but he stopped his pursuit after about 50 metres—it must have been a crazy sight.

Anyway, not long after that, the two police officers arrived with two auxiliary officers. They weren't in the best of moods because it had been raining all day, and now they had to walk to our village—they arrived muddy and wet. While the commander waited downstairs in the local shop, the other three picked up the man. After a few hard blows, he came with them, bruised and battered and handcuffed. It's a pity I didn't manage to get him to come down voluntarily. The latest news is that he is now in prison. Even though it's his own fault, in this country you wouldn't wish imprisonment on anyone. Pending the court's decision, such a stay can be very long and often without clear prospects. It is sad, but the harsh reality. His name is Bobo (pronounced boo-boo). It won't leave my mind. How wonderful it would be if he could receive healing of mind and come to know the Lord Jesus as his Saviour.

Oh well, it is just one of those adventures you rather not see happening.

## **Vanya & Katja to the Netherlands**

This month, Vanya started her study mathematics at the University of Groningen. Katja travelled with her to help her get started in her new life. Vanya now lives in the cottage on Katja's mother's property. The cottage is old, so it needed some renovation. Over the past few weeks, Katja has turned into a real handywoman, or Jackeline of all trades (what is the feminine word for this anyway?) The single-glazed windows have been fitted with insulating film and the gaps have been sealed. Of course, curtains were a must, and so the ladies have transformed the cottage into Vanya's new home.

It is a big change for all of us. Beforehand, we joked that it would finally be quiet. But then the day came when we had to take her to the airport. On the way there, it was still fun and games in the car, but on the way back, it was very different. Reality set in. Vanya was really gone now, and none of us felt like making jokes any more.

We are blessed with good internet, so we talk to each other regularly via WhatsApp. Still, it's not the same as seeing each other, giving each other a hug. We are grateful to the Lord that Katja was able to travel with her. Together they took care of everything that needed to be arranged. They also visited different churches to see which one would be a good fit for Vanya. Here too, we can see God's hand at work. The pastor of the Kruiskerk in Diever, Ben van Werven, phoned Vanya and offered to help her search. He wanted to hear from Vanya how they could help her settle in. It is wonderful to see that, even though we do not know each other, there are brothers and sisters everywhere who are eager to help.

## **Midongy & Befotaka**

In the newsletter of last June, we reported that Wouter van Holst and I had been on an exploratory mission to the very remote valleys of Midongy & Befotaka. The tribes (Antaisaka & Bara) who live there speak a slightly different dialect than the one we speak. Nevertheless, we managed to explain the Gospel quite well. Several villages indicated that they would like to hear more about Jesus, the Son of God, the Saviour of the world. In other villages, small groups are now gathering to study the Bibles they have received. The people are hungry for the Gospel.

Matthew 9:37-38 — *The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Pray therefore to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.*

Wouter wanted to send Malagasy Christians to these villages to spend a few weeks teaching the people more about the faith. I put him in touch with Jonoro, a Malagasy pastor who recently joined Africa Inland Mission. Jonoro and I have worked together before, so it was easy for me to introduce him to Wouter's project.





The training for the Malagasy Christians took place in August. I also saw Thaddee in the photos. Thaddee was in Maroamboka with his group last May to evangelise. You can read more about this in the previous newsletter. Several ministers, including Jonoro, provided teaching, and on Monday September the 1<sup>th</sup> they travelled to the remote villages to stay there for 28 days. Wouter took them as far as he could in his car, but most of the groups then had to continue on foot for another three days. Please pray for these brothers (and, reportedly, one sister). Pray that the Malagasy in the remote areas may come to know the Lord Jesus as their Lord and Saviour!

## Other Current Matters

The second group of students who were supposed to come to Maroamboka on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June is still on the list. I hope to meet with Jonoro soon to discuss a new date. In recent weeks, I have had little time to work on this. Yes, Katja takes a lot of work off my hands at home. Fortunately, the children help out a lot, but for certain things it is still easier when we are together. Homeschooling, shopping, housekeeping, are all things Katja has a good routine for.

Another thing I want to arrange is to send a few boxes of translations (the Gospel of Luke, the Book of Acts and the story collection) to Thaddee and his group in Vohipeno. I also hope to deliver several boxes to Ikongo and Irondro, both part of the Antanala area.

Finally, I am also working on the translation of the Book of Genesis. That is a lot of work because the language used in Genesis is very different from that used in the New Testament books. I have digitised chapters 1 to 6, and they are ready to be checked for the second time ... Only 44 chapters to go 🙄

Dear friends,

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 is that *"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 Simeon Hofmann





# Jurgen & Katja

Serving God on Madagascar



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Go to our website to find more ways to contact us:  
[www.jurgenenkatja.nl/en/](http://www.jurgenenkatja.nl/en/)

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

## Things to pray for:

### We are thankful because:

- 1) we we serve a great and mighty God;
- 2) Vanya has started her studies in mathematics;
- 3) we had a wonderful time as a family in Maromaboka;
- 4) the villages in Midongy and Befotaka are being reached.

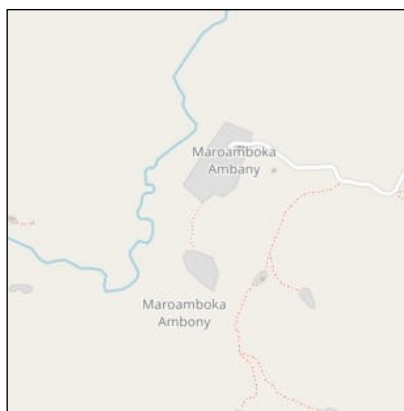
### Pray that/for:

- 5) our financial standing will return to normal;
- 6) Vanya, that she will make the transition well;
- 7) the plans to send another group to Maroamboka;
- 8) the man, Bobo, who is now in prison.

## Where do we serve?

Location Openstreet Maps:  
Maroamboka, Madagaskar-[21.595 06/47.87529](#)

Location Google Maps:  
Maroamboka, Madagaskar-[21.595 055,47.875621](#)



## 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:

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