

## January letter

Make me a channel of Your peace  
Where there is hatred, let me bring Your love  
Where there is injury, Your pardon Lord  
And where there's doubt, true faith in You

Make me a channel of Your peace  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring  
hope  
Where there is darkness, only light  
And where there's sadness, ever joy

Oh Master, grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood as to understand  
To be loved as to love with all my soul

Make me a channel of Your peace  
It is pardoning that we are pardoned  
In giving to all men that we receive  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life

Oh Master, grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood as to understand  
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## A few words on paper

The above song came on the CD player at the right time. We drove to church, a street kid with us. We found him again on our porch ... according to him, he had arrived early that morning and lay down on the outside bench.

Our hearts were full of emotions and questions; in our hearts a cry for wisdom. What should we do with this boy?

The answer came; "In giving to all men that we receive, in dying that we're born to eternal life"

It is not easy to make sacrifices, comfort and love to the number of streetkids in front of our home when we want to rest as a family on a Saturday.

The past weeks have been characterized by the many visits of children who come to our house for attention and food. And sometimes it is a bit too much, then we tend to find it difficult to give the necessary attention and love these children need so desperately. This is something that only a parent can really give, not us. Unfortunately, they are absent in the lives of their children and that drives them into the street. We need so much wisdom to guide this group of children!

We were able to close the year 2019 by celebrating the birthdays of Adam and Zoë. Zoë turned 1 on 19 December. We are so surprised by her development and grateful for it. Due to her premature birth, she was a bit slow but now she has caught up and is practicing hard to walk. She quickly becomes a wise and smart little lady! Adam turned 3 on 26 December and continues to amaze us with his music interest and energetic body. Making music with a fantasy violin, making every desk a piano or playing guitar is all taken very seriously.

Cycling, running, push-ups, trampoline jumping with all kinds of tricks are part of his daily game. Both children adds colour to our lives!

The year 2019 was still the most intensive year for us since our arrival in Gobabis. The year started with a renovation of our home, intensive contact with sponsor children, 11 Lighthouse children during the year, Jac-Louis who regularly visited a remote village for a few days, started stroopwafel bakery, had many visits from friends and family and in between the 'normal' work to name but a few.

I secretly hope that the year 2020 will be calmer and at the same time we also know that we have to do what our hand finds to do and that our lives are led by our Creator and Sustainer. In the past year He was once again faithful to provide and did immeasurably more than we could pray, ask or imagine!

If you prefer not to receive this newsletter in the new year, you can unsubscribe at the bottom of the page.

We are very grateful for all the consideration in the form of prayer, financial support for our family, Light for the Children School, community and all the visits! We feel supported and remain aware of our need for it!

We would like to make a call to pray specifically for Uncle Henk, the missionary we support. His wisdom and provision are so needed!

We wish everyone a year full of peace, love and the presence of the Lord!

## **April 2020 newsletter**

'Count your blessings, count them one by one', or 'Thank God in everything' are not easy assignments. In the past few months we have been challenged in our thoughts about this again. While we were still trying to get all the sponsorchildren in the right places in the schools, to give every child the necessities, we were shocked by the unexpected death of our neighbour who rented an apartment in our backyard, he suffered a cardiac arrest at work. That same week, we saw baby Nadia (9 months old) deteriorate every day in the hospital and she died four days later. Lung infection. A big blow to our entire family!

A month later, the lady who helped us at home gave birth to twins, but they also died - Premature birth. In the same few months we still had Lighthouse children at home. We could enjoy those little innocent people and at the same time it filled our hearts with sorrow. The misery in which these children were born and the uncertain future they are also entering ... We were able to find a good foster home for the 6 week old baby and the 4 month old child was taken care of by her great grandmother. Unfortunately, the biological mother later took over the care again and that beautiful girl died three weeks ago in the hospital.

In moments like these our hearts cannot but be filled with grief; we have many questions and few answers. In the midst of this we are aware of Almighty God's presence as we remember the times when we experienced his protection and were comforted by his healing hand in the past months.

A mother and a baby who were very ill, actually no longer in hope, are becoming more and more healthy, twins seriously ill, emaciated by a stomach virus, are now growing like cabbage (a Dutch proverb). Yes, we serve a Living God!

Our days are numbered with Him and we find peace in it. Adam is working with us to give everything a place and asks almost every day whether our hearts are aching ... he then lists the list of deaths and says that his heart is also heavy...

The large box with cuddle toys from the Netherlands is distributed by Adam to the children in the hospital. A big success! Thanks for everyone who contributed!

### **Visitors**

In February and March we had guests from the Netherlands and that brought a fresh breeze into our home. It is nice to be able to share our work and experiences in this way.

Group of Hope children are always enriched and encouraged by visitors. We appreciate the visits we receive and now enjoy all the beautiful memories!

We really appreciate the visits we receive and now enjoy all the beautiful memories.

### **Currently**

Also in Namibia we are inundated with news and regulations concerning COVID-19. There are now 16 confirmed infections in this country, all schools are closed for the third week, two provinces on lockdown and possibly the entire country during this week.

Jac-Louis will get a permit to drive around because of the work in the informal settlements. We receive weekly donations in the form of food, which is especially necessary in this upcoming period. We try to adhere to the national regulations as much as possible, but we cannot close our ears and eyes as if there is no other person. The "normal distress" remains even though an extra virus is circulating.

We pray for wisdom and protection for our few doctors in this town. The government hospital has equipment that can be counted on two hands and then it stops. The facilities are scarce across the country.

### **Kids on the street**

All street children from Gobabis who normally walk around in the capital Windhoek are, thanks to the regulations pertaining to the virus back in Gobabis and kept busy by Youth Care during the day. They have made a space available to accommodate some who don't have a place to sleep. During these times every one also receives 3 meals a day. It is fantastic that the government has taken action in this regard. Amazing progress!

Also, all sales of alcohol are prohibited, wow! The bars in the informal settlements are unusually empty and quiet. A strange sight - But progress!

Lemons, garlic and onions are more difficult to get your hands on. People suddenly realize what is healthy for a body - Another progress

### **Greetings**

The future remains uncertain, everyone realizes that life is relative. But in all of this we keep our eyes on our Rock and we know that He has overcome the world. That we must seek rest and peace in Him in the midst of the storm, then the next task is not so difficult anymore;

"Count your blessings, count them one by one, and" Thank God in everything. "

Kind regards from the four of us

Jac-Louis & Gijsbertha

Adam & Zoë

## July letter

### Wonder-week and a plea

In this letter we would like to share with you how the community has been cared for through ways all in one week. Enjoy reading.

#### School fees

A boy in the community was able to attend the private school in Gobabis thanks to a government scholarship. Unfortunately, the government stopped paying it in August last year. We had already received a large amount to pay the outstanding amount for 2019, but a few weeks ago we heard from the school that € 1700 was still needed for this final year of his schooling. If the amount was not paid June 30, this boy could not go to school. After a call on social media, we were able to inform the school that the full amount could be paid. The gratitude, surprise, joy and peace this brought to the parents and this student is indescribable. Two weeks later, we still hear how grateful they are for God's provision in their lives. God's timing is always perfect!

#### Triplets

The doctor calls, "do you have any clothes for babies? A woman has given birth in the hospital and to her surprise, she has had three babies instead of one. "

That same day, I had read a message from friends saying she would be happy to send money if there was a need in the community.

We were able to take advantage of that great offer the same day and buy clothes and other necessities for this mama to take care of her three gifts!

Later, another amount of money came in with which we could buy good food so that this mother can continue to breastfeed. Isn't it amazing how the Lord works?



#### Operation colleague

A colleague of ours has been waiting since 2007 for a specific surgery to take place and so another operation was scheduled...

After a week of waiting for blood pressure to stabilize, and another re-scheduling the necessary surgery was performed and to our surprise he was able to go home the next day. We are silent and amazed at how good and gracious the Lord is to show His provision in this way for something money can't buy...one's health.

### **Food for 23 families**

"Gijsbertha, can you buy food for 23 families if I give you money?"

"Sure, I want to do that, but I don't think the amount you sent is enough for 23 families. "

"No problem, I'll still send some money!"

With a large amount of money, we were able to buy the basic needs for 23 families at a time of extra poverty. The employees of one of the local businesses have not received a salary or only a small part in recent months. This is a big problem because in every family there are people who have been cut on their salary or have received nothing.

What a privilege it was to put together food packages for 23 families. The idea that food can be put on the table again! Wow!



### **Volunteer visit**

Our house was filled for a few days with three Romanian volunteers who work at a Romanian mission base near Tsumkwe. They came especially to Gobabis to help paint the San Pre School, a school that is also part of the Light for the Children Foundation.

To our surprise, they came not only with their willingness to help practically but also with a large amount of money for their work and to help address needs in the community!

Jac-Louis and I had been thinking for several weeks about raising money for a grandmother



who takes care of her grandchildren and mainly lived in plastic. Now these volunteers together with some church members were able to build a sturdy zinc house for her. And two more houses for people who really needed it!

What a miracle week!! All praise and honor to the Good Giver of all this!

### **San Mission**

Recently much of our work has been with the local Bushmen tribe (their language is called Jo'!oansi – good luck trying to pronounce it 😊 ). It is always encouraging and inspirational to work alongside such a humble folk. Certainly a lot of things we can learn from them.

Unfortunately their humility and peace-loving nature makes them easy to be taken advantage of and sure they are being used to enrich others. This is where the Gospel is also very good news for this unique tribe and tongue; not just restoring their identity in Christ, but also enabling them to be a giving and blessing people. Please join us in prayer as we work with these with these goals in mind and prayer.

Thank you for partnering with us in seeing how God works wonderfully among this fragile group of people.



Shalom!

Jac-Louis, Gijsbertha  
Adam and Zoë