

African Greetings

Martin & Silke sending their news from Zimbabwe



Dear friends,

Marondera, in February 2010

How are you? We're well except for a very bad conscience again, for not having written to you for such a long time...we are sorry for that!

We are a bit better with the **e-mail prayer updates** that we send out every 2-4 weeks, if you would like to receive them, please do send us a quick message. If you do not have E-mail, maybe someone in your church could get it for you and print it out for you? It's much easier to get prayer information to you on time this way.

European Intermezzo...

Our time in Europe came quickly to an end and we touched Zimbabwean soil again on the 06.02.2010.

It was good to be in England & Germany!

We were received joyfully by our friends all around. They looked after us so well and it was a blessing to be together!!!

Having power and water all the time was quite a treat for us! To go into **one** shop only to get **all** the groceries needed was such a nice change! The fact, that there were no alarm systems going off all night & dogs barking, gave us also a lot of respite too ...

We were treading the doctors mill & got thoroughly checked out. David got all his jabs & Martin managed to get his appendix key-holed out ☺. We are grateful for the overhaul.

David also enjoyed seeing his grandparents and relations - and of

course that joy was shared with the family! David quite liked Europe, although the snow was something he took a while to get used to. Well, he is an African boy after all ☺! With enough layers he at least tolerated that white, cold stuff in the end.

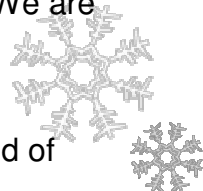


He did learn quite a few things in our time here: sitting up, moving about on the floor and to say "Dada" & "Mamma".

David was prayed for in London a lot but through all the to and fro we forgot to have his dedication service - would you believe it...at least we managed to have one in Germany. Sorry for that!

Family...

A great cause for joy was the encounter we had with Martins sister Kirsten. She has a lot of problems, but Martin & her were able to have some very good conversations. She said, that she could sense the peace of God in us and she was longing for it too!! We prayed together for even that and know she's much closer to the Lord, as ever before! Do pray, that she will get



freed from the stuff holding her, and start a new life with our saviour Jesus Christ!

Our parents are doing well according to their ages. Martins mom is still getting a mild chemo therapy but her counts are quite good. Most of all, she knows herself in God's hand!

Working through stuff...

The day to day life in Zimbabwe does have quite a high stress level. Adding to that, the general situation when you come out is that : You leave behind your home, your friends and all that is known and dear to you. Your securities and your identity. You have to cope with power and water cuts. Dogs barking and alarms going off at night.

Deeper still, is facing the suffering and a lot of things that you don't understand. And "even" missionaries ask sometime, how God can allow such things to happen.

After hearing a lot of disturbing stories in Zimbabwe too, we did feel a need to work through some of these. Our DMG made this possible at an excellent counselling place called: www.Lerucher.com. It's located near Geneva on the French side. It was a very important and liberating time, praise God!!!

It's not easy, facing suffering and other things and knowing that God has a plan with all that. But we do trust in Him, because He is the king of righteousness (Heb. 7:2) !!! He will judge the world justly one day from a white throne (Rev. 20:11)!!! This gives us hope and courage, that evil will be judged one day and good rewarded!!! We still cling to Jer. 29:11, God has a good plan for each one of us!!!

Return to Zimbabwe...

We've arrived safe and sound back in Zimbabwe and praise God for a good journey - thank you for your prayer!

David got even two (unpaid) seats from Frankfurt to Johannesburg and slept 8 hours straight!!!

In South-Africa we did another palette shopping and are now waiting for it to arrive in Zimbabwe.

Things are available here now, but prices are still not as levelled out as we expected them to be.

Thankfully our faithful gardener, security guard & part of the family: Baba Lawrence did a reasonable job with looking after the place! The rats got in a bit, but not too bad. In the car they had build a few nests, one unfortunately in the fan.. Since then we've been using lot's of scented spray in it...;-)

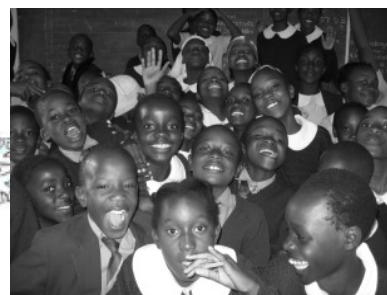
Praise God, we got our car fixed quickly, since we were able to buy the missing bolts in Germany & the mechanic was sober...

The termites were held back by all the deterrent we put down - praise God for that to! They did chew up a few books & cupboards in the past...

Ministry...

We've shared on "Forgive & be forgiven" from Mat 6:9-15 & 18:21-35 in a series "Coping with difficult circumstances" in our church. It's good to be with our friends again! They missed us (and we them) and they did fill our fridge and even put flowers on our table ☺ What a blessing to be in Gods family!!!

This week Martin starts again to teach life skills in the orphanage and next week in the schools too.





Good to be with “our” kids and young folks again! What a privilege to share the Lord Jesus with them! Only he can save and lead them in the right way!!!

Thanks again, for being with us here in prayer!!!

It means a lot to us & strengthens us in our life & ministry here, even with all the difficulties.



We’re looking forward to see what God is leading us into this term.

In His love,
Your 3 bush birds,

Martin & Silke + David



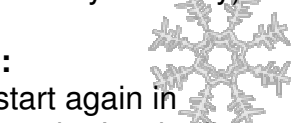
Our prayer requests...

We thank God for:

- the time in Europe, for a break & also reflection
- the love & care we received from our mission, churches & friends
- all the medical care we could receive in Germany
- the guarding angels, “skating along side” us, on icy roads (there were countless accidents and we sadly lost a colleague in Germany that way)

We ask God for:

- a further good start again in Zimbabwe and that the Lord will use us that people will find Him here!
- new strength & vision for the life & ministry here and all the challenges
- for Martin sister



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