

May 2008 from Antananarivo / Madagascar

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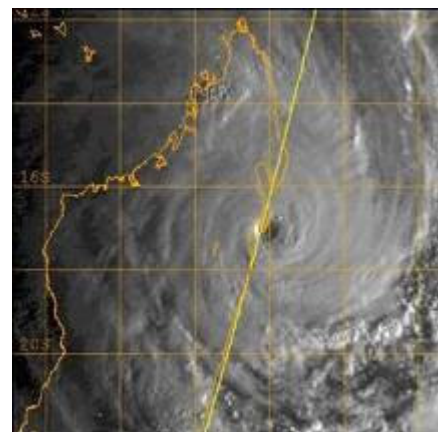
Dear Friends & Partners!

Our moving is forgotten and we don't even think of the old house anymore. It was a very nice change for us, to live closer to neighbors. In our old house you could hardly see people, because of the high walls every house has around it. But here it is only hedges but it is one big compound; and we have friends living close by...

The cyclone we „announced“ in our last newsletter, IVAN, left us without power for 3 days and brought 2 weeks of constant heavy rains. But in other regions of our island he destroyed people's lives: more than 50% of the houses were destroyed, the harvests flooded away. Markus, our base manager flew with our helicopter to the east coast



and the little island in front of Madagascar. From those places no communication was possible and nobody knew what was going on there. But through our helicopter people got information, victims felt thought off, and helping organizations could start special programs to provide the most needed things that moment. But it will take quite a while, to rebuild and get it back to normal. And then? It is cyclone season again...



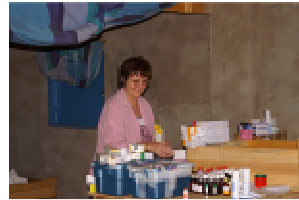
Believe it or not: our helicopter is back from Canada! It was a load of papers that we needed to free him out of customs, but it is there, in our hangar! Unfortunately it requires still lots of work before it will be airborne again, but step by step. Our flying helicopter is 5R-MVN and for the last weeks was flying almost every single day. Just coming back from one mission, it took off again with another pilot. So we definitely need %R MKT to help!



Gerd: In the end of April i went to the south to fly different missions. It takes us 4 hours of transfer flights, since the island is so big. We always contact all missionaries in this region to make sure that lots of work can be done. The special treat was, that I could take my family with me. While they were enjoying some time off I was looking forward to spend my evenings with them and not – like always- all by myself in the hotel. It is really a big offering for me, to be gone for so often. During that week I had even the chance to take Tanja and Josia Fanilo with me one day. We flew with Norwegian missionaries to a village called Mitsinjo. This couple has been working there since 1983 and they were the first missionaries to use our helicopter in Madagascar. It was such a blessing to see how much they enjoyed being on the helicopter, because usually, they walk in this village. Not a big deal you think? Just 20 minutes of flight? Well, 75 miles, through hills, rainforest, heat. It takes 2 nights to walk there, since due to heat they cannot walk during daytimes. Isn't it a blessing to have a helicopter and reach many villages instead of wasting time by walking, arriving exhausted and tired? Once the lady even broke her ankle and had to still walk on it for 35 miles... Tanja got to know another medical program: the nurse invited her to come and teach him more about midwifery. He is the only medical person there, no doctor, no midwife. IF it works out, she would love to go there, not, fly ☺...

Tanja:

In March my parents came to visit us and we had the chance to take them to Sakamadio. We had to realize, how much we got used to the bad conditions we find there. Everything was quite ok, we thought, but my parents were shocked and couldn't trust their eyes. They say it is such a difference to read of bad conditions sitting in a warm living room, having a coffee and actually being there, seeing people alive and moving, smelling it, seeing all the dirt and no water, no toilet, no electricity. Nothing than rice, no help except we arrive there. Suddenly it is not just a village far away, no it becomes alive and familiar, people have names and issues, pain and sorrow. They could hand out school materials they brought from Germany, and the kids were so happy. They want to learn, but how, without any materials...? They could help easily because so much help is needed and it doesn't take much to help. The helicopter flew some sick people in the hospital and brought the others from last time back into the village. Both survived: the young lady with her gynecological bleeding and the premature baby. Praise the Lord!



Josia Fanilo:

For our son it was a great time having grandparents around. He enjoyed all the extra attention and presents. He learned lots of new things and plenty of words. After Oma and Opa left, we had to say Good bye to other friends which was a new and very hurtung experience for Josia Fanilo. Good to have computers to stay in touch, but in can never replace personal visits.



Veloma, mandrapiaona - - - Bye, See you again...

The third year of our term just flies by. You can say, it is the best one, since you know most things and the new country is home for you now, but also, it is a hard one, since you haven't been home, with friends and family for quite a while. Unfortunately very often people start forgetting you which makes life harder, too. Would you please continue to pray, email and support us? We want to continue to good work here and it helps if we fell covered and supported! Soon we will start to plan our furlough and then we can meet you and share with you about the wonderful Malagasy people and the work here



Blessings and Thank you's

Your Missionaries,

Gerd, Tanja & Josia Fanilo



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