

Juli 2008 from Antananarivo / Madagascar

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Dear Friends!

This time we have news that is very special for us and we are excited to share them with you!

After 515 days of trust, prayers, tears and sorrows, we are looking forward to having many more days of joy, gratefulness and smiles: Since June 24th Josia Fanilo is legally on paper what he has been in our hearts for many months: Our son! The judgement was made in May and became legal after one month of appeal. Nobody will change the fact, that his name from now on is "HOCK". We already completed the file that the German court needs to register and confirm the adoption. This is the last step in the "war of papers". Josia Fanilo has 2 passports already: the Malagasy one and a German temporarily one. The final German one is ordered and we can have it after the German court finished their work on his papers. In the end of June we had a party with all our friends that live close enough! Our Malagasy friends from church cooked for all of us and it was just an amazing time with many different cultures together. It has been amazing, how many people helped and did more, than you could ever expect to see this adoption happen. Not because it wasn't correct, but because of bad people trying to sell our child and just blocking for the sake of hurting, destroying and showing their power. But Thank God, that Josia Fanilo can stay with us, his family! It wasn't the easiest time in life but a very amazing one, since so many people prayed and encouraged us. Many people we didn't and perhaps never will know were praying on a daily base! Thank you for winning this battle with us! We want to share an email we got: We feel like we had all of that!



*May God give you
A rainbow for every storm;
A smile for every tear;
A promise for every trial;
A blessing in every hard time;*



*For every problem that life can send, a friend to share it with;
A song for every sigh and an answer to every prayer!*

Josia Fanilo realizes that there is a lot going on but doesn't understand what it is about. He doesn't have a clue of how much changed for him, even though nothing changes for him! He is a very happy and healthy little boy, talking and singing all day long. We enjoy watching him talk in all 4 languages and wonder how he can work this out. We are sure he wonders a lot, what this Germany is: that's where everybody he misses is at. © What else can you explain to a 2 year old when many friends leave and visitors go back home?



We are in winter and it is cold: in the 40s to 60s. We have a fire place to get warm, but what happens to the Malagasy people in their huts and on the streets? It will be not more than 38 to 40 °F at night for the next couple weeks... And do 60°F really feel warm at daytime?

Gerd: Since we are in winter and the schools are off, many missionaries left to go spend some time in warmer areas or back home. So is our Helimission team: Tanja and Fanilo are the only ones that didn't leave the country. All others had to leave for health reasons, medical checks, flight licences and tests. Additional to the responsibility for the maintenance I took over till the midst of September the responsibility of Markus as a base manager. Can you guess what that means? Easy, more work, less time☺! I could fly for many different missions during the last weeks. A bush hospital got a new solar panel so that they don't need to treat people with candles and flashlights at night, we searched for surviving people after a boat accident at the east coast, people with life threatening injuries could be rescued, a well project has been planned and started and of course all people that saw the helicopter for practical help heard about the love of Christ. With Assembly of God Missionaries from the US I flew to Sakamadio and we had a young American volunteer with us, who works for bush proof. Their goal is to provide fresh, clean and healthy water to the people. But it is not only about getting it quickly done. He was talking to the village to find out about their habits, meaning, which areas do they use as toilet, where do the animals go, which spots are fady. Fadys are taboos and very bad rules in Madagascar. They are set up by the witchdoctor and ancestors and often they just forbid the most important things. The fadys are destroying the country and its people. Contaminated water is a regular reason for diseases and many people suffer and die for that reason. But the American man taught the village about the necessity of clean water. And it is such a good parallel to when we talk to the bush people about God's living water. After 2.5 years on this island and in the villages we can see the changes and developments: in some areas more than in others, of course. It is so encouraging to see that the unbearable circumstances in people's lives change for the better: Step by step - but they change! Since we always have too much work, our second helicopter isn't flying yet; we need to find the time to put it together.

Tanja: On May 23rd my phone rang and life changed: we had to go to court for the adoption the very same day. Gerd was in Austria to finish his flight license. He only learned when every thing was done, that the long waited for and desired day at court had happened. Since I didn't have my husband with me it was a treat that my friend from Germany was there. She arrive a week before and I was glad to not go by myself. My life is slowly changing back to normal, since no ministry is calling and asking me to come right away. I sit many hours now at my computer to catch up with the work that didn't get done in the crazy adoption months. And then I start getting photos and reports ready to show you, when we are finally coming to see you! I am often wondering how to put our exciting 3 years in pictures and words. Well, you will see later how I managed....

Great fundraising idea: Lukas and Simon, 2 amazing kids from our home town decided to raise some funds for us. They participated in a TV Show, where two teams play against each other. The kids can win some fun stuff but also win some money which is given to a project. We were their project and they won \$550 for us! We think it is such a great example, that everybody can support mission's work, no matter how young you are! We are proud of you, Lukas and Simon!



We are so excited that time is close that we come back home to see you!

May God bless you!
Thank you for your prayers and support!

Gerd, Tanja & Josia Fanilo

Your missionaries,

home 011 261 20 24 61 353 Gerd 011 261 32 07 44 846 Tanja 011 261 33 11 77 139 skype helistorch or heligerd !	<u>Our Address:</u> B.P. 140 Helimission 105 Ivato Aéroport Madagascar	<u>THANK You</u> <u>for your prayers, emails and phone</u> <u>calls. We feel loved and close to you!</u>
gerd@heli-news.com	www.heli-news.com	tanja@heli-news.com