

June 2006 from Antananarivo / Madagascar

HELI news 9

Dear brothers and sisters!

Never did the time go past so fast between sending our HELI News like this time. We have been here for almost 5 months and learned a lot, saw many new things and worked to build HIS kingdom. Summer and rainy season are over and the winter has begun. So far, we almost have the same temperature like you, but this will change soon, and it will be colder here.

Let us give you an update to the reports we wrote in our HELI News 8:

Gerd: In April we flew again in the area of the village from where we flew the injured man out. Remember? The one who was severely injured by the cow. We had a program in a neighbour village and the young man came running. He desired to see the helicopter and the pilots who saved his life. Also he wanted to know every single detail. It was amazing to see, how grateful he is for the lifesaving help. Can you imagine, how thankful he will be, when he discovers, that we have even more important life-saving news for him?



By now I fly by myself, without Markus as safety pilot. It is a new challenge to accomplish all details alone. But so far, every flight went well and I trust the Lord it will keep going like that. I got more familiar with the mechanical and paper responsibilities that come along. My days are never the same, being bored is impossible. But we love serving the Lord here and are glad that we went through all those years of training & challenges.

Tanja: Unfortunately I have to tell you, that the 10 days which it takes to get my midwife licence, are not yet over, even though they started in February. Life moves slowly and the responsible person hasn't been at work for 4 weeks now, after an accident. He will come back soon. Hopefully, the 10 days will also be over soon.

I spend many hours in the orphanage. The twins are healthy and growing. Every child soaks the extra attention they can get. It is wonderful to see how they grow and change.



I started with Malagasy lessons a month ago. 2 afternoons a week and I love it. In the beginning it felt like taking the whole alphabet in a box, shake it well and flip it. Then you have a Malagasy word. ☺ Each word has so many letters and it sounds so different to another language that I know. But seeing the big smile on people's face when I try to talk with my 5 sentence I know, encourages me to continue and study hard.

LONGOZABE - a village in the rainforest



May 24th was a great day: I, Gerd, could take Tanja along in the helicopter to LONGOZABE, a small village in the rainforest. It is a 40 minute flight and mostly over the rainforest. We went there to pick up a team of pastors who was coaching Malagasy leaders of many villages together. Some people came walking for 4 days to attend. We stayed there for 1 hour, so that Tanja could enjoy and sense the life in such a village. Guess, what she was asking first? "Where are your babies born?" The major was very proud to show her the small hospital. It was at the other end of the village, so we enjoyed seeing the whole village. But read what she has to say: "That simple, almost empty room was at least clean. In the papers I could see that only 2 babies were born in 2006. Seeing all those little ones in the village I wondered and learned, that most people cannot effort to come here and give birth at home. To see this room enlarges my idea of how babies are born in the country." For me, Gerd, it was very special to give Tanja an idea of the villages and areas I fly into and have personal contact with isolated people. It wasn't for sure the last flight I will take her along, but a special one, since it was the first here in Madagascar.

Do you want to smile?

We had to buy a new shower hose. After one week the hose burst. I, Tanja, took it along to the shop to find a new, fitting one. The assistant helped me and gave me the same model again. I showed him my week old, broken one and he asked: "Did you use it with hot water?" "Of course, it is a SHOWER HOSE!?!?!?" "„Well“, he said „, but only for cold showers!“ He could not understand my shocked face, but I took the new hose, for HOT water along....



**TYPICAL
MALAGASY**

Soon we will have visitors coming. The first ones and they come from really far away: John and Jackie, who visited us last year in Germany are coming from Michigan. We are excited and can't wait to have them here. In the beginning of July we have a program for 1 week in Mahajanga, close to the coast and I can take Tanja and the visitors along. It will be very good and we'll share with you in the HELI News 10!

Our house is almost completely done. A few more curtains and pictures and for the first time in many years we will have a nice home, that we don't give up for some years. You can't believe how special it is to us, especially as here it isn't as granted as in Germany or the USA. 100 feet away families live next to the rice fields, without water or electricity, eight people in a little dirt hut. The contrast in this country is so huge and compared with the western world incredible. But there is one fascinating fact: The Malagasy people have always a smile on their face. They are friendly, satisfied and not stressed at all. They wave when they see us; they are so excited when we say "Hello" and "Good Bye" in their language. Concerning these aspects, they are an very good example for us.

I guess you sense that we are very thankful for being here and serving the Lord and those wonderful Malagasy people. We have no doubt that it was HIS will for us, to be here. Both of us celebrated a birthday here, we started making friend and discover more and more of this beautiful island. We are so happy for each email, every call and each letter you send. If you ever send something (email or letter) and we didn't respond, we have to tell you, that we never got it.

Sometimes letters just don't make it to us, because curious Malagasy people in

the post office open letters. And when they are opened they don't give it to us anymore. But please, keep trying! I'll ask my Malagasy teacher how to write "GOD IS WATCHING YOU! On the letters ☺

*We thank you, in Jesus name, for your prayers
& support. We are sure, the blessing flows
back to you! We miss you and love you,*

*Your missionaries
Gerd & Tanja*

gerd@heli-news.com

www.heli-news.com

tanja@heli-news.com

Home phone 011 261 20 22 48 586
Gerd 011 261 32 07 44 846
Tanja 011 261 33 11 77 139

Our address:
B.P. 140 Helimission
105 Ivato Aéroport
Madagascar

Check our webpage: there are often
new pictures available!
You will always find
our phones and address there!