

Newsletter 2015 / 2016

Heino, April 2016

Dear Reader,

Our board likes to pass you this: *the profound gratitude of the Sisters, the staff and the children* for your interest and your financial support for this warm, loving Kacema family.

2015 brought sadness, joy and plans for 2016.

Joy: Sr. Maria Katonkola's Celebration: 'Mammie nr. ONE' has been Sister of the congregation 'Sisters of the Child Jesus' for 25 years officially.

For the celebration she was first allowed to quietly retreat in a convent.

In her native village Sr. Maria celebrated her jubilee with her family and many others.

Also there was a special worship service in Kasama, hoofdstad van Northern Province.

In Kasama Mother Superior Sr. Christine Kabumbu resides with the Board of the congregation and more Sisters.

At 3 October in Kawamwa 'our Sr. Mable had organized a celebration service in church and a party in a tent for Sr. Maria and the children: Many people attended!

All people enjoyed it very much. Sr. Maria was very, very happy!

Joyce, final year nursing-student in Lusaka, sent this self-made picture to Sr. Maria as a special Jubilee present for 'her' Sr. Maria.



In Memoriam:

Baby Anthony, was a very lively little boy, all the children loved him. Sr. Maria: "He was an ANGEL!"

One day he had hij diarrhoea, got very sick right away. To the hospital, at first an improvement, but nevertheless, he died, to *everyone's sorrow*.



Loveness carries Anthony, a little heavy?



Gabriel (smart) found this way for walking around with Anthony!

† Anthony will stay in many hearts...



Anthony on the kitchen table. Delightful



Happyness:

This girl, alone (left) and at Sr. Maria' lap, (right) is called Serafine.

As a newly born baby she was found in a 'pit-latrine' (a wc, deep hole with a cubicle above it) in de town Samfya .

— Samfya is 5 hours driving from Kawambwa —

After being well cared for in Samfya hospital, she came to Kacema Musuma through Social Welfarea.

<—Serafine flourishes, as both pictures show you.—>



For 'our' three students 2015 has been a successful year again:

- Rosaria finished her teacher education very satisfactorily and is now teaching in Mbereshi where she lives with her sister.
- Geoffrey will have his last exams (electrician) at the end of May. If he passes, after a 2-years study, he'll try to get a job as well.
- Joyce's nursing-study takes three years. She has enthusiastically started her third year.

In 2015 expensive technical problems occurred and have been solved : THANKS, THANKS, THANKS, for the wonderful financial support from different sides!

- A.- The electric hot water geysers broke down one after another:
- B.- The storage batteries, powered by solar panels, stayed empty:
- C.- The oldest solar water-pump stopped: burnt-out:
- D.- The irrigation of the vegetable garden and orchard was insufficient:

They have been replaced by solar geysers.
10 new batteries have been installed.
New solar water-pump has been installed.
Extra pipe-lines have been installed.

A Miracle:

For your understanding: in Kacema the Sisters are called 'Mummy' and the staff 'Auntie' or 'Uncle'.

3-year old Ruben still could not use his legs at all, he was able to use his strong hands and arms to drag himself over Kacema's smooth floors. The Sisters became more and more worried about Ruben. Sr. Maria took Ruben to a good specialist physician. After physical examination the conclusion was: This boy will never be able to walk." Na zijn onderzoek: "Deze jongen zal nooit lopen!" What a deception!! Ideas: Ruben's world becomes too small, he misses pre-school, *but his arms are strong*: a children's wheel-chair?? Liliane Fonds Netherlands / Zambia helped us: Their help didn't result in a wheel-chair but in a MIRACLE!! Ruben, just 5 years old now, is able to WALK!

This thanks to VERY intensive (and expensive) physicial examination by Sr. Ornella (Italian and physician) in Lusaka.

Sr. Maria, an 'Auntie' and Ruben have travelled by bus 1.000 km to Lusaka (and 1.000 km back) 4 times. Each time they stayed in Cheshire Home for a week, a good home for physically handicapped children. Ruben happy: "I'm not the only one!" All kinds of examinations, scans, X-ray, blood-tests, etc in UTH hospital en private laboratoria in Lusaka have been done.

For the final examinations Ruben had to stay in Cheshire Home for 3 months, accompanied by an Auntie. Weekly extensive blood-tests should demonstrate that Sr. Ornella's very special medicines were effective without damage. (like f.i. the kidneys) The 'Aunties' Albertina en Mathilda have taken care of Ruben in Lusaka each for 6 weeks: and saw him improving!

Sr. Ornella's brought the special medicines from Italy. Her congregation paid for these expensive medicines. Fantastic news: At 1st of April we've even found these medicines in the Netherlands, bought and sent them to Kacema, paid by Dutch donors.

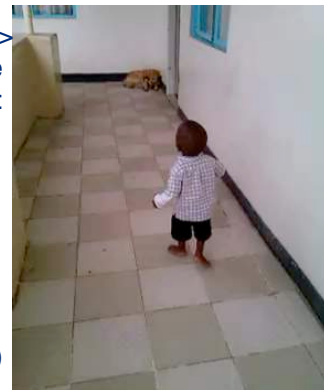


← 1st time!
Ruben managed to pull himself up at this bucket.
Proud like a peacock!!

STANDING! →
First three steps in Lusaka →



Dec.'15 →
Home
To the meal:
Walking all by himself!!
Freedom!
Ruben is so proud and happy!!
(see also our website website.)



Last but not least....

In New Kacema Musuma Children's Home Two things are very important for Sr. Maria and her staff:

1. We must stay a family : the number of children cannot increase indefinitely. Social Welfare in Kawambwa also know this. t
2. The children should have an education as good as possible.

Ad. 1: Giving birth a mother dies. Baby stays alive. Mother's sister asks for help at So. Welfare: "Kacema? Not possible."

The sister, baby on her arm asks Sr. Maria for help. Though she knows *how poor* this family is she says: "No", pain in her heart. After some time the other sister comes to Sr. Maria with the very same baby. Baby regressed: "No", with even more pain! Ten days later Grandma was at the door. Sr. Maria saw the baby being much worse. Lovingly she accepted the baby with open arms. So far the baby is doing well. Quite an achievement, for the staff as well!

Ad. 2: Sr. Maria has built her pre-school and 4 classrooms primary school bit by bit with money from Zambia en Canada.

Parents are paying school-fee, max. 20 pupils per class, all day long (in 'regular' school 60 tot 70 pupils only 3 hours a day.)

Now the last 4 classrooms are needed! Though we've remained uninvolved with Sr. Maria's school-project Hoewel wij ons steeds afzijdig hebben gehouden van Sr. Maria's scholen-project, the 6 Dutch men of Bouwteam Hoogland crossed our path literally: 6 men wanted "to build for Kacema". That was the start! Now, with more wonderful financial support, the first spade has touched the ground at 5th of April (end of the rains). The opening will be 6th of August. Children will attend school in Sept.

Veel dank voor 't lezen en uw steun.

Bestuur Stichting Kacema Musuma