

Newsletter Mutanyana Weru, November 2011.

Father André van Zon was in Holland for a short visit and is now back in Maputo, Mozambique. He there helps people who are involved in the agriculture project that was started several years ago. The purpose of the project is to re-integrate the participating handicapped people into the local society and to make them independent of gifts.

1. Situation summer/fall 2011

Also in Mozambique the weather is behaving strangely. Last spring and summer were too dry, and in the fall (harvest time) there was an abundance of rainfall – almost 40 mm. per day!

The drought caused a lot of damage to the crops. The people also have to experience how to deal with such dryness in order to limit the damage as much as possible. The harvest therefore is not as good as



expected. Especially this was the case with sweet potatoes. Another reason for this was that quality of seed potatoes was not good enough. Good quality seed potatoes were not available on the market

and therefore consumption potatoes were used instead. These are of lesser quality because they have been treated with chemicals like anti shoot.

Above situation resulted in good market prices with a demand being higher than the offered quantities.

This situation however is not valid for vegetables like Manioc. The harvest of Manioc was ok but the prices were very low!

Hopefully this will change in the future.

Cattle breeding:

Father André bought 3 young pigs in order to try to start a small scale cattle breeding business.

If you don't try you will never know if it works!

Several families already have chickens walking around, providing fresh eggs and meat... and some business!

2. Finances:

We already noticed in our previous newsletter that the rate of exchange was going down dramatically. This trend continued this summer. The rate of exchange of the Dollar and Euro versus the local currency, Metical, changed in such a way that 1 USD now is worth only

29 Metical and 1 Euro only 39 Metical. This is a degradation of 20 to 25% in one years time. Take also into account the raised costs for fuel and most food and it will be clear that strong budgeting is an absolute must.

Father André asks the people to deliver more energy for less money and support. You have to cut your coat according to your cloth! So be it!

We also reported in our previous newsletter a negative going trend regarding donations: also this trend continued! Up to the end of September we received just over € 9000; the board of our Foundation estimates that this amount will go up to € 14000 by the end of the year. The Foundation agreed with Father André to donate for the project in Mozambique in 2012 the amount of € 25000. This means that we donate more than we receive: so we will have to use our reserved money next year. Fortunately we do have this money available but this situation can not go on for years!!

We therefore kindly request you for some additional effort to make sure that Father André and his volunteers will be able to continue to support the handicapped and sick people of the project. And also to allow the children to continue to go to school to receive their basis education which helps them to get a better future life.

3. Donations and Legacies

We are only a relatively small Foundation with the main goal to financially support Father André in his activities with handicapped people in Maputo – Mozambique. We can not organise large campaigns or spend money on advertisements, but be assured that all your donated money comes at the right place.

The current recession has lead to raised cost for food, fuel, education, etc. not only in our country but these poorest countries, like Mozambique, have been hit most.

In order to cope with this situation we need your financial support.

May we count on an additional gift?

It is good to know that periodic gifts are fiscally most attractive. If necessary our Chairman, Sjef van Zon, can give detailed information.
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4. Health

Father André's is ok; he has some troubles with sand flees but this is more a discomfort than a serious issue. Also the people of the project are in reasonably good shape and their health is ok.

Sad news is the death of Paulino Ernesto. He was the son of Rita Ernesto, the women who found her family in South Africa after years of searching. Paulino had an accident and was badly burnt by cooking hot water from a kettle. It's horrible but true.

Rita Ernesto's story will be published on our website soon.

5. Trip

After 39 years Father André finally found time to make a day trip to the Kruger National Park. Together with his fellow priests he had a wonderful day.

6. André van Zon

To respond to the various question we received about the person André van Zon, below you will find a short description:

He was born on Jan. 1st. 1938 in the little village named Venhorst (NL). He grew up here in a catholic family with 3 sisters and 5 more brothers. After primary school he went to the seminary in Stevensbeek (NL) for his schooling for Priest. In 1965 follows his inauguration to Priest.

He leaves Holland in 1972 for Lorenzo-Marcus (now: Maputo), the capital of Mozambique.

He worked in the local parish and was heavily involved in the training of new (local) priests.

He also was working in Maputo's main hospital and there he became involved with the care and housing of



the poorest of the poor people of Mozambique. Many of them being handicapped as a result of exploding landmines, which were left behind after the civil war. Early 1990 he started a care centre for handicapped women and (their) children.

As of 2007 up to now he is active in the re-integration project for ex-participants of the Centre (which was taken over by a catholic group from Brazil). It is the intention to train and support the participants of the project in such a way that they will be able to live independent for external gifts and hence re-integrate them in the local community.

7. Finally

We wish you a very merry Christmas and a good and healthy 2012.

[Thank you for your support!](#)

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