

Newsletter Mutanyana Weru, July 2012.

Father André van Zon had big problems with his communication in general and with our Foundation in particular. In order to give you up-to-date information we publish the (translated) trip report of 2 Belgium acquaintances of Father André. They visited Maputo last May.

1. Trip Report

In the beginning of May we had the opportunity to visit Mozambique for some days. This South African country is completely incomparable with the western countries of Europe. Although we were fully prepared, this trip would give us a complete new view on Africa. The experiences we had there are still alive in our minds and the fact that life in Belgium and the Netherlands is not bad at all was underlined during several occasions during the trip.

The convent in Maputo (the capitol of Mozambique) was our place for lodging. We had been invited by the priests/missionaries who give there the best of their selves for the black population. As of day 1 we were fully integrated in this community, for which we are very grateful. From this home base we joint Father André to learn more about his projects. Father André is a Dutchman who lives for years in Africa and was the manager of one of the homes for children in Maputo. Meanwhile he is getting older and wants to spend his energy for the weaker and poorest people. We noticed that he does this with a lot of enthusiasm and passion.

After breakfast (a piece of bread with a choice of honey, peanut butter, Belgium cheese or Salami and Nescafé with milk powder) we took off. Away from the city straight to rural areas where the projects of Father André are located. In a Jeep we drove to a place where 4 people were working in the field. They grow corn, potatoes, cabbage and a lot of beans. The dimensions of the field are about 25 by 150 meters and is was obviously a former cane field that was reclaimed.

These people work at a temperature of 35° !! The way various crops were growing was a feast for the eyes... but also the unwanted weeds grow like mad. Two days without human interference and the fields are a jungle! We support the project but rather do not like to do this kind of work in the burning sun.

In the afternoon we drove with the Jeep over dusty roads and even had to walk the last part into poverty. People here live in huts made of waste material with a roof of grass: poverty all around! But still these people had prepared some food for us. Did they know we were coming?

We were having chicken, rice and manioc. André set the example. We even could eat with knife, fork and spoon whilst they were using their hands. Unbelievable! This all took place in the shade of a big tree together with families living in 3 more of these huts. One woman had lost both her hands.



Children all over the place. They shouted, laugh and obviously enjoyed the presence of so many white people. From where we were eating we could see a field with real gladiolus, not the grown ones from Holland but pure natural as the creator planted them. We immediately noticed that André is a highly appreciated guest. Later on we would realise why. A lot of people came to Father André with a piece of paper in their hands, most likely the proof of costs for doctor treatment and/or medicine. It probably are not the costs for shoe repair, because they didn't have any. André checked the notes and in a manner that was hardly noticeable, he returned money for the receipts to the mothers (most of them were pregnant again) of the numerous children.

On our way to a next project we stopped, in an area with lots of white sand, at a humble hut. A young women was breast feeding her baby: pure nature- no bottled milk. Some time ago a 10 000 Volt electricity cable had become defective and dropped on the ground only a few metres away from this hut. The following short circuit caused the wires to get so hot that the sand melted and transformed into a glass skating course. Again Father André donated some money to the young mother.

We then came to a slum which was unheard and unseen to us! People here live in unbelievable circumstances in small, self made sheds without the least comfort. And the same picture all over: children, children and more children. And almost every woman being pregnant! The men are gone for a longer period

of time, mostly into neighbouring South Africa and come home from time to time, with the visible results. A handicapped mother with her daughter and her 2 children came to André for consult and with a bundle of mysterious notes; they also could count on André's support. We noticed that they were very happy with his help. For white men the area certainly is not safe at day; not to speak of safety in the evening or at night. It is a ghetto for people who have nothing but poverty and children. Again Father André was the benefactor. Although it was hardly noticeable I saw André donating some money. Also here the people were happy (but what is happiness?) and André was certainly happy with his small financial interferences. We were the silent witnesses of a thick wallet filled with money he collected from the bank earlier that day. The wallet became thinner and thinner after every visit we made. This certainly was a day that gave us a complete different view. It also is a trip that no travel agency would have dared to offer. The maximal achievable would be to show these ghetto's by telling about it while driving along them. We were right in the middle of them! We never ever will get this opportunity again. Thanks Father André.

We also sincerely thank Father Maurits; without his interference this trip would not have been possible. *(the text was written by Theo de Konick and Swa Peters)*

2. **Finances:**

Thanks to your financial support the Foundation donated in the year 2011 the agreed amount of money of € 22 500 to Father André. For 2012 we agreed to donate € 20 000 to Father André and his projects in Mozambique. The recession is worldwide and also hurts Mozambique. 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. (phone +31492321626)

4. **Finally**

We wish you a very good summer.

Thank you for your support!

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