

Newsletter about Mutanyana Weru 2014

May I introduce myself: I am Monique Craemehr, 40 years old. Proud mother of 3 beautiful daughters and living in Boxtel – Noord Brabant- Netherlands. In April 2014 I resigned my job as a manager of a children's centre; the job did not give me satisfaction anymore.

The continent Africa has stolen my heart. I have been there several times on vacation, but also for development projects together with my daughter Nienke. And sometime you meet the unexpected. After several years of being out of sight, I communicated with Celia on Facebook. I met Celia on Saint Mary (an institute for children with communication problems). Celia told that she will go to Mozambique soon to visit her family. I asked if I could visit here there and if she was willing to show me her country. With pleasure she agreed to do this.

So, within a week a ticket had been booked and mid-May I flew to Mozambique with more than 100 kg. luggage. I had no idea who to give all these extra things to, but experience learned that I could make a lot of people happy with these gifts.



I not only asked friends but also did an appeal to people on the social media. And also went to entrepreneurs, shopkeepers and private person in Boxtel. I ended with suitcases full of new clothes, toys, toilet and baby items etc. and a lot more to give away in Mozambique.

Upon arrival I was full heartedly welcomed by Celia and her family. After a first visit to the capital of Maputo, Celia and myself started to sort out all the goods in order to donate them to the right addresses. Celia also introduced me to Father André, who is working for the Foundation

Mutanyana Weru. This contact gave me warm feelings. I talked the whole evening with Father André who explained me his work with a lot of passion, despite the fact that some weeks earlier he was the victim of a robbery which cost the Foundation a lot of money. The robbery had been a very shocking experience but he continues to put all his energy in this Foundation; never mind his age.

I have worked for years in a hospital myself on the obstetric ward and thus was very curious to learn more about the hospital in Maputo. Father André told to visit several patients in the hospital the next day. He told me, with tears in his eyes, some horrible stories about some children and young adults and what happens to them in the hospital. Because of the limited resources they are very dependant of the Foundations money. That next day I joined Father André to the Central Hospital in Maputo.

The stories he told me the night before, became reality. A girl from the country had an infected stoma causing heavy pains and Father André arranged a doctor from the first aid ward to look at her. One cannot imagine how chaotic a first aid ward is. I was very impressed by the way he used all his power and he was not accepting excuses. Most doctors know him, therefore are willing to react quicker. The girl had a lot of pain and not eaten for days. I was asked to provide pain killing medicine and food. In Maputo these things are not provided by the hospital.



Also some children are suffering from AIDS. Sometimes people come from the country by foot, with a lot of pain, tired and hungry. Father André takes care of the with a lot of love and respect and I admire him for that. His phone rings continuously and also people ask him questions. He stays calm and helpful.

Because of, and thanks to his work he is doing for years, he sees small children grow up; children without any chances without his involvement.



for a lot of people he is like a father

This lady on the picture once was taken care of by Father André and now is a happy mother independently taking care of her own little son. She is very happy to see Father André every week and to hug and talk to him.



The jeep that Father André is using for his weekly visit to the country was in the garage for several weeks. Luckily he could borrow the jeep from another parish during this repair time. I had the honour to pay for the driver and the fuel. All this was caused by the lack of money due to the recent robbery. Because of the defect of his own jeep Father André had not visited his people who, for weeks, had no money to buy food. Some of the people are fully dependant of the money of the Foundation. Very often these people have been wounded during the civil war.



The lady on the picture is laying on her belly for several years. The foundation provided housing and treatment. On her term she also care for an orphan.

As a Dutch citizen I notice how much we are used to all sorts of luxury. Example: the driver went to the bank to collect money. It took him more than 5 hours before he got the money. Some days earlier there simply was no more money left at the banks because it was end of the

month and everybody tried to cash money. These things never happen in in the Netherlands and we also take care very much of our minorities and handicapped people. These people are very dependant of donations. Without them they could not survive.

The Foundation bought large pieces of land and grow food there. It is very difficult to do this successfully. Chinese companies take over the organisation of the country, build large factories and roads causing the coastline to change. The see then floods other parts of land with **salt** water. This is a bad situation because most plants will not survive salted soil. The Foundation manages the people to stay motivated to work on their pieces of land.



After having admired the well treated agricultural land we went to visit lots of very nice people in the country. A jeep is very useful in these situation because the roads are rugged , bumpy and sandy.

An older lady has waited for hours in the shade of a tree, to see Father André. During the civil

war Father André had managed to locate her in revalidation centre; the lower part of her body was paralysed by a bullet in here spine. She there has learned to take care for herself and her family.

She was very happy with the clothes I brought with me and the toys for her grandchildren. She also needs money for buying food. She produces products in her garden but the soil is not suited for all plants.

I feel like Santa Claus, people were really becoming very enthusiastic because of all the wonderful gifts from Holland. I really felt 'the rich Dutchman', although, at home I have a normal income. This feeling was not really good.





How unevenly the wealth has been spread all over the world!!!

How much can we learn of all these beautiful people... being happy with so little possessions. We want everything larger and more resulting in us not becoming more happy.

The Fathers also live very minimalistic and their lives are fully dedicated to others. From the deepest of my heart I hope that the donations continue to come and that the Foundation

continues to do its work. I invite everybody reading this article to become donor of the Foundation.

Monique Craenmehr

