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Dear Friends!

During the last couple weeks we have been even busier than usually so that our newsletter is about 3 weeks late... The more you are settled here and feel home, the more work you see, the more needs you hear... It is a challenge to pray and decide what to do and what not to do, if you see all the needs and the misery. So we are glad, that even our days have "only" 24 hours and weeks only 7 days. ☺

The Mission in Sakamadio:

We had another program in the beginning of May. After so many months of working there finally some relationship is growing. The most exciting part last time was showing the Jesus movie in the evening. We gathered all people to first talk about a building project. The German Embassy helps with about \$10000 towards a building project in Sakamadio, because it will bring a positive change for the people in the village. With our help the men are building now. We will buy all materials here and fly it in. And we could win a South African builder who will go for 6 to 8 weeks into this village overseeing the building time. Isn't that amazing? We will use the house for our bush clinics and hope to find a Doctor or Nurse/Midwife who will stay there constantly. There aren't many people who are willing to leave all conveniences of life here in the capital city, but we trust that we will find one. I, Tanja, enjoy working with the French Missionary Jean Noel who is in charge of this program. The work out there became a very special and important part of my life here in Madagascar. Also, because I am out in the bush with Gerd and see his work, since so often I can only listen to his experiences.

Left side: Many people gathered together for the building project and the movie later that day.

Centre: again we could help with a surgery: a man had a cyst about the size of a tennis ball

Right side: Men are preparing the land for the building



Left side and Center: the damaged helicopter after the hailstorm in Ihoay
Right side: Gerd doing a preflight check



I, *Gerd*, had plenty of flights the past 6 months. But suddenly there was a change: One morning out in a little town in the south I arrived at the airport. The guard came already running towards me to let me know, that the hail, which wasn't very strong in town, was very bad out at the airport and my helicopter was damaged. 2.5 inches big hail corns left the helicopter in bad condition. As a mechanic I checked the helicopter and started working on it. A small toolkit we have in the chopper and the rest I could find out there in the small town Ihoxy, funny enough. After a couple of hours I could do some test flights and had no problems. SO I decided to go and get the missionaries who where still out in the bush villages. They were grateful, that I could come and they didn't have to walk back, which would have taken the, many hours or even days. ON my way back to Tana I could still fly another small program which was very blessed. Back in Tana we had somebody from the insurance coming and now the helicopter will be shipped of to Canada. Almost every single part is damaged so the helicopter needs to be repainted after it is fixed. We cannot paint here such big parts that is why our chopper leaves the country. But please, don't think, that I didn't have to work since then. We had to take the helicopter in parts, build boxes for it and so on. And our second machine is waiting for spar parts which finally arrived in customs here. We pray that we will be airborne by the end of July. Besides all the sad parts of those stories, I enjoy being home with Tanja and our Josia Fanilo every evening.

Josia Fanilo: Our Baby is already almost a toddler. It is such a miracle and overwhelming, how fast he could catch up. Lately a lady met me and the baby. She hadn't seen us since the 1st week Josia Fanilo was with us. She was very astonished, that we had another baby and could hardly believe that he was the same baby. He is a big, almost 11 months old, happy guy and loves music, which can keep him busy for hours. Isn't it amazing, that he shares this hobby with his daddy? God finds the perfect family for each baby who needs one. I haven't been in the hospital regularly since Josia Fanilo is with us. I enjoy being home with him, but my colleges often ask when I restart working with them. Lately they called me to come in for a twin c-section and I came. They arranged a babysitter so that I could do the surgery with the doctor. Aren't my colleges amazing? I enjoyed being back in work, knowing my baby well cared for... ☺



We send you back all the blessings that we can see here through your prayers and support. May our Lord Jesus Christ encourage and strengthen you.

We love you and miss you so much.

Your Missionaries,

*Gerd & Tanja
with
Josia Fanilo*

*THERE IS NOTHING THAT LETS THE EARTHS SEEM BIGGER
THAN HAVING FRIENDS LIVE FAR AWAY.*

home 011 261 20 24 61 353 Gerd 011 261 32 07 44 846 Tanja 011 261 33 11 77 139 skype helistorch or heligerd !	<u>Our Address:</u> B.P. 140 Helimission 105 Ivato Aéroport Madagascar	<u>THANK You</u> <u>For your prayers and emails. We do feel</u> <u>loved and not forgotten!</u>
gerd@heli-news.com	www.heli-news.com	tanja@heli-news.com